

The Wife of hwhy
And
The Bride of Messiah





Messianic Jewish Synagogue
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The Wife of YHVH and The Bride of Messiah

It is important to maintaining a distinction between the Wife of the LORD, which is Israel, and the Bride of Christ, which is the Church.

To fail to do so may lead one to believe that the Church has replaced or become Israel as God's chosen people.

*** The Church and Israel are distinct and separate entities selected or "Chosen" as God's special people, each for their own unique role in His plan.**

Gentiles

Unbelieving
Gentiles

Believing
Gentiles

Unbelieving
Gentiles

Believing
Gentiles
before the
Cross

The Nation of Israel

Unbelieving
Gentiles

Believing
Gentiles
before the
Cross

Faithful
Israel

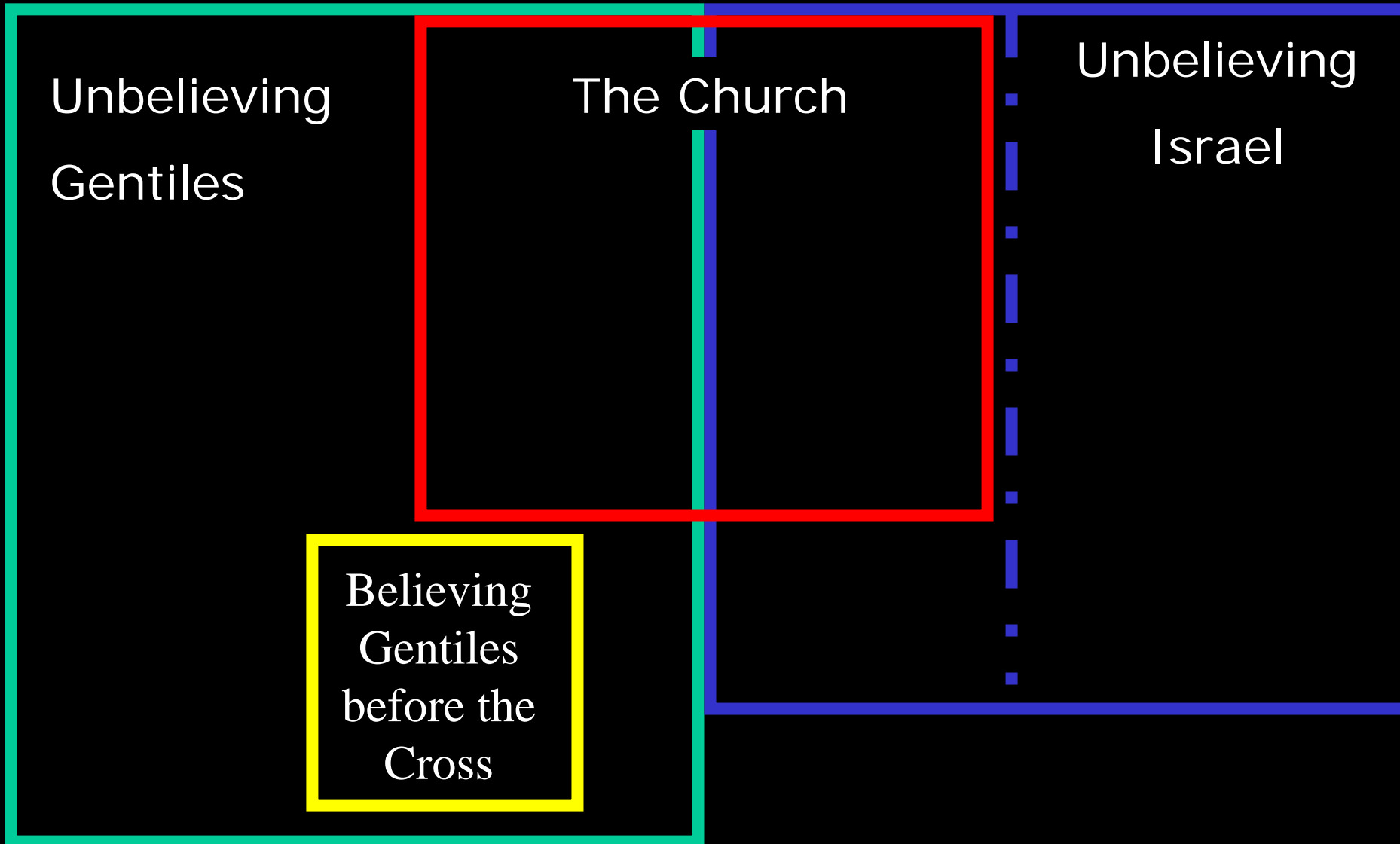
Unfaithful
Israel

Unbelieving
Gentiles

The Church

Unbelieving
Israel

Believing
Gentiles
before the
Cross



Unbelieving
Gentiles

The Church

Believing
Gentiles

Believing
Jews

Unbelieving
Israel

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The Church

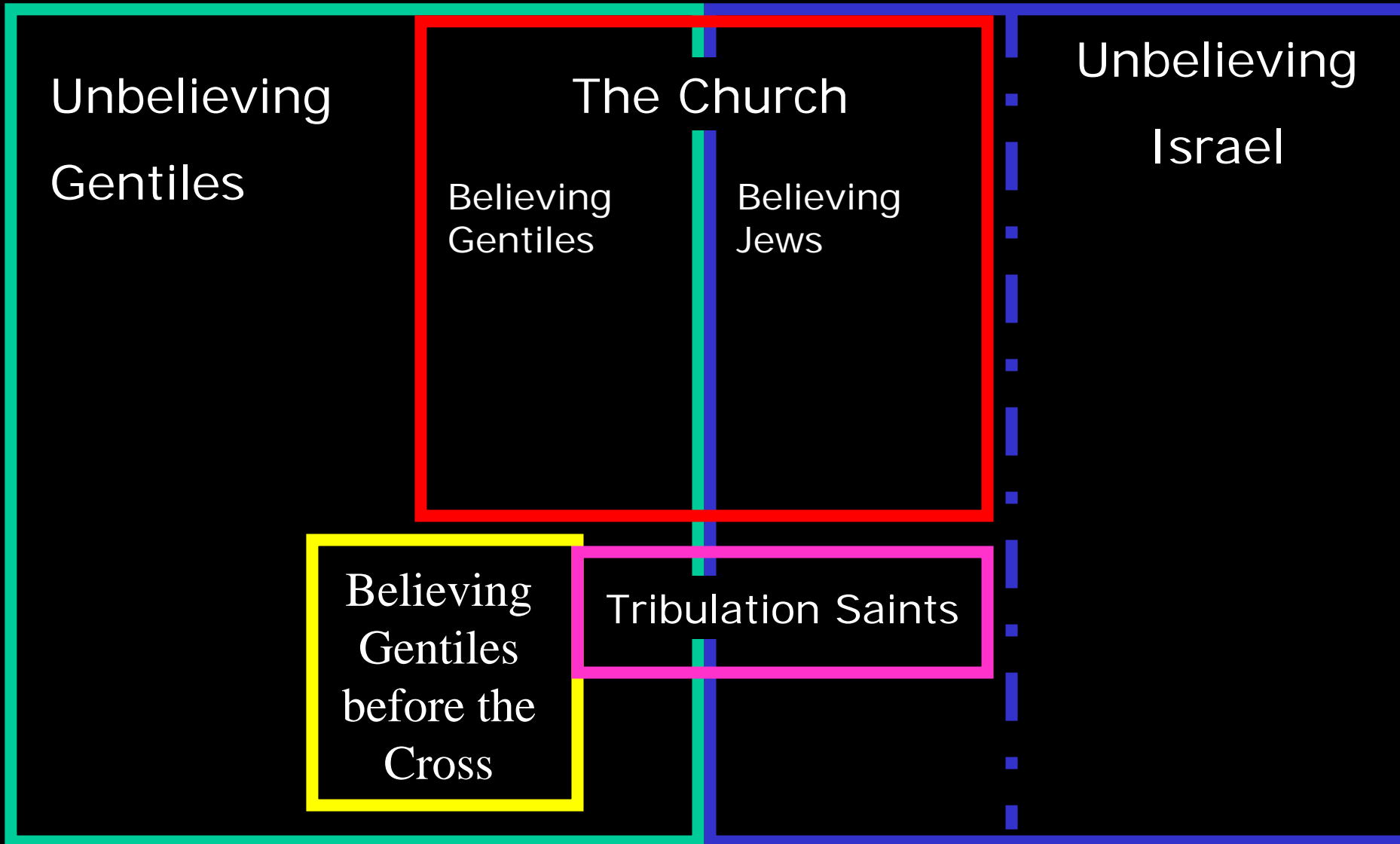
Unbelieving
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Believing
Jews

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Gentiles
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Tribulation Saints



The Six Stages of Israel Betrothal

1. The Marriage Contract
2. The Great Adultery
3. The Separation
4. The Divorce
5. The Punishment
6. The Restored Remarriage

Stage One: The Marriage Contract

"Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord GOD.

Ezek 16:8

The marriage contract in Deuteronomy:

Covenant stated: Deut 5:1-3 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully. The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today.

Jealous Husband's warning: Deut 6:10-15
Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

Chosen because of love: Deut 7:6-8

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Israel's obligation is faithfulness:

Deut 7:9-11

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them.

Stage Two: Spiritual Adultery

Ezek 16:15-34

Israel became a prostitute: "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing."

Israel paid her lovers with the good things given to her by her husband:

"You took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen. You also took your beautiful jewels made of My gold and of My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images that you might play the harlot with them.

Israel even sacrificed her children to her lovers: "Moreover, you took your sons and daughters whom you had borne to Me and sacrificed them to idols to be devoured. Were your harlotries so small a matter? You slaughtered My children and offered them up to idols by causing them to pass through the fire."

Israel's lovers: the Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian gods:

"You built yourself a high place at the top of every street and made your beauty abominable, and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry. You also played the harlot with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and multiplied your harlotry to make Me angry. Behold now, I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations.

And I delivered you up to the desire of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd conduct. Moreover, you played the harlot with the Assyrians because you were not satisfied; you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied. You also multiplied your harlotry with the land of merchants, Chaldea, yet even with this you were not satisfied."

Israel's weak heart is the cause of her adultery: "How languishing is your heart," declares the Lord GOD, "while you do all these things, the actions of a bold-faced harlot. When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdaining money, you were not like a harlot."

You adulteress wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband! Men give gifts to all harlots, but you give your gifts to all your lovers to bribe them to come to you from every direction for your harlotries. 34"Thus you are different from those women in your harlotries, in that no one plays the harlot as you do, because you give money and no money is given you; thus you are different."

This sentiment is expressed by the prophets Jeremiah and Hosea and they confirm that Israel's adultery caused the marriage contract to be broken:

"...the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. Jer 31:32

Stage Three: The Separation

A one hundred year period of separation began with Isaiah's prophecy

Isaiah 50:1,2:

"Thus saith the Lord,
Where is the bill of your mother's
divorcement, whom I have put
away? Behold, for your iniquities
have ye sold yourselves, and for
your transgressions is your mother
put away. Wherefore, when I came,
was there no man? When I called
was there none to answer? Is my
hand shortened at all, that it cannot
redeem? or have, I no power to
deliver?" (Isaiah 50: 1, 2.)

In order for a husband to divorce his wife under the Mosaic law, he had to write out a certificate of divorce in longhand and give it to his wife. The divorce was then final (Deut. 24:1). Through Isaiah God states that he had not given Israel a certificate of divorce, He had merely sent her away. This period of separation was a period of withholding His blessings from her.

State Four: The Divorce

One hundred years of separation did not produce the needed repentance in Israel, so the certificate of divorce was issued through the prophet Jeremiah. The entire book of Jeremiah could be viewed as a certificate of divorce, the key verses are found in 3:6-10:

In Jeremiah there is a particularly striking statement:

"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you."

(Jeremiah 3:14)

Jeremiah 3:8 "And I saw,
when for all the causes
whereby backsliding Israel
committed adultery I had put
her away, and given her a
bill of divorce; yet her
treacherous sister Judah
feared not, but went and
played the harlot also."

Hence Israel, having proved disloyal to God and having dishonored His Name, was cast aside, as several of the prophets testify. Hosea declares! "Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband." (Hosea 2:2.)

And again,

"Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi, for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God."

(Hosea 1:9)

Nevertheless, Israel was not to remain in her a divorced condition; she was to be re-betrothed and restored, to her married state as Hosea later declares:

Hosea 2:16, 19-20

"And it shall be at that day, saith the Lord, that thou shalt call me Ishi (my husband); and shalt call me no more Baali (my master) ... And I will betroth thee unto Me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord."

This theme of the redemption of Israel from her divorced or widowed condition is continued in Isaiah 54: 4-8.

"Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more."

For thy Maker is thine Husband; the Lord of hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall He be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

Isaiah 54:8

For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment;

but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer."

I thought, 'After she has done all these things she will return to Me'; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also. Because of the lightness of her harlotry, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees. Yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception," declares the LORD.

Stage Five: The Punishment

Cause for punishment stated:

Therefore, O harlot, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God, "Because your lewdness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered through your harlotries with your lovers and with all your detestable idols, and because of the blood of your sons which you gave to idols,..." Ezekiel 16:35-36

Punishment described: "...therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, even all those whom you loved [and] all those whom you hated. So I will gather them against you from every direction and expose your nakedness to them that they may see all your nakedness. Thus I will judge you like women who commit adultery or shed blood are judged; and I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy. I will also give you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your shrines, demolish your high places, strip you of your clothing, take away your jewels, and will leave you naked and bare.

with their swords. They will burn your houses with fire and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women. Then I will stop you from playing the harlot, and you will also no longer pay your lovers. So I will calm My fury against you and My jealousy will depart from you, and I will be pacified and angry no more.

Because you have not remembered the days of your youth but have enraged Me by all these things, behold, I in turn will bring your conduct down on your own head," declares the Lord God, "so that you will not commit this lewdness on top of all your [other] abominations. Ezekiel 16:37-41

Punishment necessary because Israel broke the marriage contract: "You have borne [the penalty of] your lewdness and abominations," the Lord declares. For thus says the Lord God, "I will also do with you as you have done, you who have despised the oath by breaking the covenant." Ezekiel 16:58-59

a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; And she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, "I will go back to my first husband, For it was better for me then than now!" Hos 2:6-7

Stage Six: The Remarriage with Restored Blessings

According to Ezekiel, God will enter into a new marriage contract with Israel in the future:

"Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord, so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done," the Lord God declares. Ezekiel 16:60-63

The prophet Jeremiah refers to this new marriage contract as the New Covenant: "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord.

But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their

A new marriage contract is necessary because the old one has been broken. The restoration of Israel as Jehovah's wife is also described in Isaiah 54:1-8; 62:4-5.

The prophet Hosea specifies four results of this restoration in 2:14-23:

"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her. Then I will give her her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt."

Israel will no longer call God *Baali* (*Master*):

"It will come about in that day," declares the Lord, "That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali. For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more." *Note: "Baali" and "Ishi" are both acceptable names for "husband" in Hebrew. "Baali," which sounds like the foreign god "Baal," was to be discontinued in order to prevent Israel from thinking of her former lover.*

Peace and safety: "In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety."

Betrothal:

"I will betroth you to Me forever;

Content: "Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,"

Quality: "And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord."

New Meaning to *Jezreel*: "It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the Lord. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel. I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, `You are My people!'

And they will say, ` [You are] my God!' "
*Note: The Hebrew word "Jezreel" can
mean either "God scatters" or "God
sows."*

*"During the period of punishment, Israel
experienced the first meaning, God
scatters. Now Israel will experience the
second meaning, God sows"*

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The Invitation

*You are invited to come dine with Me,
From now through all eternity,
Dinner is the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
And dine with Jesus as your host
To live in heaven eternally.
All you must do is*

R.S.V.P.



The Bride of Messiah

2 Corinthians 11:2

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.

I promised you to one husband, to Messiah, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.

John 3:29

John the Baptist is not the Bride

He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice.

Revelation 19:7

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

8 And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 And he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’”

The Bride of Messiah

The importance of maintaining a distinction between the Wife of the LORD, which is Israel, and the Bride of Messiah, which is the Church.

To fail to do so may lead one to believe that the Church has replaced the Israelites as God's chosen people.

The New Testament reveals that the marriage of the Bride of Messiah to her husband will correspond to the Jewish wedding system that was common in Yeshua's day.

The Jewish Wedding

1. Kiddushin- Engagement
2. Ketubah- Contract
3. Chuppah – Preparing Bridal Chamber
4. Secret Fetching the Bride
5. Mikveh - Immersion
6. Nuptials – The Ceremony
7. Yichud - Seculision

During the period of the preparation, the bride was prepared to be a fitting wife for her mate. It was also the period of time in which she was observed for her purity... the Bride of Messiah, the Church, ... is even now in the process of being perfected for the Groom.

When the Groom returns for the Church, as depicted in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, God's plan for the Marriage of the Lamb will advance. The marriage ceremony will take place in heaven (Rev 19:6-8) followed by the marriage feast (Rev 19:9). This will usher in the Kingdom of God. The home for the Bride is the New Jerusalem (John 14:1-3; Rev 21:9-22:5).

Application

There are many things that I do not yet understand about the distinctions between the Wife of Jehovah and the Bride of Messiah. For example, I do not understand the timing of the remarriage of Jehovah to Israel in relation to the Marriage of the Lamb. I do not understand exactly how this fits in with the idea of God's remnant into which Gentile believers have been grafted. Yet from what I can understand I discern three distinct responsibilities.

Our first responsibility as the Bride of Messiah is to understand and articulate that the church has not supplanted the Jewish people in the heart of God. We must be defenders of the Jewish people and their land at every opportunity. We must fight anti-Semitism wherever occurs and recognize that it originates from Satan and his deception.

Our second responsibility as the Bride of Messiah is to submit to the process of preparation to take on the role of wife to Lamb.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Messiah also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. Eph 5:26-27

According to verse 26, the Church is now undergoing a process of sanctification. The word "sanctification" means to be set apart. The Church, then, is now being set apart to eventually be presented a pure virgin to *Yeshua*, in accordance with II Corinthians 11:2. Furthermore, verse 26 points out that she is being cleansed by this means of sanctification, which is by the washing of the water with the Word.

It is not by water baptism, but by the water of the Word of God. As the Church becomes more and more conformed to what the Word of God teaches, she in turn becomes more and more the virgin to be presented to Him.

How much are we individually allowing the Holy Spirit to wash us with the Word of God? How much is the Word spoken, read and preached in our church so that the Holy Spirit can conform our congregation to the Word of God?

Our third responsibility as the Bride of Messiah is to protect the sanctity of marriage. In his famous letter to the Ephesians on the duties of a husband and wife Paul says, "This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Messiah and the church" (5:32). Messianic marriages have a higher calling than the happiness and well-being of the husband and wife.

Messianic marriages should represent to the unbelieving world the love of Messiah for His church and the love of the Bride for her Husband. When we allow Satan to dilute the importance of marriage as a symbol of this greater spiritual truth we are weakening the church and misrepresenting Messiah to the world. The church of today must find a way to love the divorced while maintaining a strong stand against divorce.

1 Corinthians 12:27 – You are the body of Messiah – speaking of the church and those who have been given spiritual gifts.

Ephesians 4:12 – The edifying of the body of Messiah is the reason we are equipped to minister.

Rev. 21:2 – The new Jerusalem is beautifully adorned as a bride because it will be the home of His bride.

Rev. 21:9 – The bride is said to be the Lamb's wife.

Rev. 22:17 – The Spirit and the bride say to the bridegroom, "come."

John 3:29 – John the Baptist does not seem to be included as the bride.

Ephesians 5:25-28 – The discussion of husbands and wives. Jesus sets the example by how he loved the church and gave himself for it. Church must equal wife.

Revelation 19:7-9 – The marriage of the Lamb, the wife is dress in fine linen, clean and white which is the righteousness of the saints.



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