



THE

- Web Edition -

MENORAH LIGHT

אור מנורה *Proclaiming Messiah Yeshua/Jesus*

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EDITION I - 2011

Lonely? Confused? Angry? Depressed?

JESUS/YESHUA Is still the Answer!

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REALLY
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BRIDGROOM COMES!

by Renald E. Showers



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Pastor Reuben Drebenstedt, Director
Shalom friends,

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THE BELIEVERS' HOPE

The imminent return of the Lord

The early Believers stood firm that Jesus could come at any moment. Today many have lost that urgent sense of expectation—and the fire, passion, and motivation such a hope inspires. But He is coming, and we can renew our strength, witness and excitement for the future!

*Yochanan/John 14:1-3 Mattityahu/Matthew 24:44
Luke 12:35-40 I Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:9-11*

A BELIEVER'S HOPE

The imminent coming in the air to take all Believers to join Him, then His subsequent (unknown time frame) physical return to the Mount of Olives.

Z'kharyah/Zechariah 14 (especially verse 5)

Often I discuss the coming of the Lord Jesus *for us* and frequently with Christians tired of the changing world moving away from the real God. They are tired as many I talk to state, "things are so depressive, so bad politically, financially and morally". Even in the Church things are moving away from the Bible. Some say, too flippantly I think, that they really want the Lord to return. Others say they pray for His coming, to be today if not sooner! Yes He will soon come for us but "at any moment". So the question now is "are our attitudes and actions reflecting our unconscious answer that we are willing to leave this earth right now...or is there something standing between us and our Lord at the moment?"

Now I am increasingly hoping for His coming for His Body of Messiah, the Church. **Come Lord Yeshua/Jesus!** I believe there is no condition that must be met before He will do just that: no revealing of the Anti-Christ, 7

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נאמנות של אלוהים GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

by Donna Drebenstedt, staff

But you, brothers, are not in the dark, so that The Day should take you by surprise like a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:4

I love talking about the **imminent** (with no preconditions) return of Jesus Christ for His Church, the Believers! Alex told me recently that the only logical conclusion to all this Biblical prophecy I share is that it was 'written in' after it all happened! I have had many interesting comments likes this when using the Bible to show how the prophetic events presented throughout have been literally fulfilled and many others are imminently to be fulfilled. Alex put his ear plugs in and walked away when I asked him how they wrote in the prophetic

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Mission News-Views

year signed peace treaty nor the start or finish of the Tribulation is needed. Yes, like those near Him during His first coming who were told He would return for them, I too look daily as the times are heatedly getting worse all around us. Are you? Are you ready? Really? **Ready?**

As a full time minister and missionary I think our opportunities to share the Gospel hope (www.menorah.org/savior.html) has never been keener, more listenable. Not that most people have changed their hearts toward God but in that more are seeing that they and the human race have not been able to change the world into a better place. Things are not getting better. **So how close are we?** No one knows nor can tell of Jesus' coming for the Believers, the real Christians, the Messianic Body of Believers in Him, The Church. Yes we can tell that He will come to set up an earthly 1,000 year Kingdom and rule Himself after the end of the 7 year period where the Anti-Christ rules after brokering a 7 year so called peace agreement. But that coming of Christ is not the coming the early Believers nor I am excitedly looking to! I see the coming changing times as what the Lord Biblically warned us about and told us to look for and that such would usher in His advent/coming/return for His talmidim/disciples.

In the twinkling of an eye, so fast will be our leaving into His presence. At the start of this brief and inadequate article on the imminent return and taking of the Believer then alive on earth to be with Him eternally, I give some Scripture references. Please take time to prayerfully read them. If you are not sure that if He came today that you would be taken, ask for the forgiveness of your sins and for Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. That is all it takes for an honest heart to come home to God and live eternally in His glory. This is not just an offer to escape the present troubles as it is the very same offer that was initiated 2000 + years ago. (www.menorah.org/savior.html)

John chapter 3 ends with, *Whoever trusts in the Son has eternal life. But whoever disobeys the Son will not see that life but remains subject to God's wrath.*

To disobey is to reject Jesus' freedom free-gift atoning offer from our sin and certain eternal death that He paid for by His own sacrificial death. Yes there is true hope, one way, God's way!

I pray for the Believers especially to be refreshed in remembering this thoroughly Biblical prophecy and real lasting hope. God's sovereign plan for His followers should today until Jesus comes, renew our love and commitment to the Lord. Let's look up for our redeemer to come. Let's be changed in the way we think, speak and live. His future is our promised hope.

Thank you for your support and prayers. Menorah wants to continue until we join the Lord to be a faithful resource and referral ministry about the Messiah, helping others to know Him, the Bible, Biblical Jewish roots of Christianity, Israel, Jesus (Yeshua), and God's plan of eternal redemption/salvation.

God bless and keep you,

Pastor Reuben

MENORAH מְנוּרָה PRAYER CARD

Please pray with us using our prayer card that we carry with us in our Bibles. You can print it from: www.menorah.org/mmPrayerCard.pdf

MENORAH מְנוּרָה E-mail: menorah@menorah.org
Internet Resource Page: www.menorah.org 303-355-2009



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נְאֻמֹת שֶׁל אֱלֹהִים GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

by Donna Drebenstedt, staff

fulfillment of Israel becoming a nation again in 1948? Never been done before in the history of the world!

Not everyone puts ear plugs in and walks away. Many are hungry to hear this truth! It is this imminent return of Jesus that is written in the Bible that most motivates me each day to keep sharing the Gospel message of being reconciled to God as Paul especially urges us in 2 Corinthians 5! God wants to make His appeal through us! This has always amazed me that He has entrusted us with His message of reconciliation! I praise God He has let me minister this good news with Menorah on the university campuses, the streets of Denver and in Israel. My favorite conversation is the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, His imminent return and how to receive His free gift of reconciliation.

Many Muslims like Abdul try to assure me that they love and serve the same Jesus as I do. The few that do know a little about the Qur'an will tell me with excitement what Jesus will do when he returns to Damascus: ie. He will destroy the Nation of Israel, invite the whole world to be Muslim, or else, and Jesus will marry and die 40 years later. They know nothing about the real Jesus in the Bible that is God incarnate, loves us with an everlasting love and of the atonement He made on the cross making forgiveness of our sins possible. What great opportunities God gives Menorah to share His wonderful truth with them. Usually it is the first time they have ever heard it! See www.menorah.org/therealjesus.html

Joseph, who is Jewish and claims to also be an Atheist, is now actually bringing his Tanakh (OT) to campus and tries to disprove the Bible prophecies I share with him on the death, burial, resurrection and coming of **The Messiah Jesus**. Isaiah 53 confused him until he returned the next week with an answer from a rabbi that said the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 is the Jewish nation. (note: personal pronouns are used to tell of the suffering "person".) It is interesting that even the Orthodox Rabbi's are now teaching the imminent coming of the Messiah! Pray for Joseph and other Jewish people to see that their Messiah has come according to Isaiah 53 to make atonement for their sins. Pray they also see the other clear passages in their Tanakh of Jesus being the/their Messiah and of His true imminent return. www.menorah.org/54ReasonsWhyYeshuaIsTheMessiah.pdf

Recently Dean overheard one of my conversations and asked to discuss some recent crazy events happening in the world. He then listened as I told him why Jesus is the only Peace Maker able to fix the problems in the Middle East and of His imminent return to do so!

Patrick picked up our '2012' tract and was concerned about it predicting the end of the world. I shared with him that the Bible and this tract tells us we cannot know the date. But Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:4 that we do not need to be in the dark or taken by surprise because as Believers in Jesus we do not walk in the dark but in the Light of Jesus! He listened with tears in his eyes as he learned for the first time how to be ready for the imminent return of Jesus, how to be reconciled to God by His atonement made on the cross!

Stay excited in Jesus!, *Donna*

ps. Please see page 1 "Believers' Hope"

FALSE AND NEAR CHRISTIAN FAITHS
Additional Truth vs Error Cultic comparison with
Biblical views www.menorah.org/false.html

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MESSIAH PROMISED TO NOAH'S SON - SHEM

As human population multiplied so did sin and transgression. Mankind reached a stage when wickedness was so widespread that even the "sons of God" joined with the "daughters of man" in the orgies of sin. (1) Judgment is then pronounced on all creation, except Noah and his family of eight, because Noah was a just man who walked with God.

After the flood, Noah planted a vineyard and one day drank to excess. In a drunken condition he lay naked in his tent. His youngest son, Ham, looked on his naked father in a sinful manner. After regaining sobriety, Noah pronounced a blessing on his two older sons, Shem and Japhet, and a curse on Ham's son, Canaan.

And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japhet, and He shall dwell in the tents of Shem ... (2)

From this benediction, it is clear that the promise of a Messiah is narrowed to either Japhet or Shem. Jewish commentators see in Japhet the Hebrew root, yapht, which implies that Japhet's descendants will be more physically attractive than those of Shem. They cite a Psalm where the Hebrew word yaphyaphita is translated, "thou art fairer." (3)

It appears then that Japhet would have a genealogical advantage over Shem. Nonetheless, the Talmud suggests that the opposite is true :

It is written, 'May God beautify Japhet and He shall dwell in the tents of Shem.' It means that though God gives beauty to Japhet, He dwells in the tents of Shem. (4)

Hence, although Japhet possesses a physical attractiveness, Shem will have the physical presence of Messiah dwelling in his tents. As contained in another Talmudic passage:

'May God beautify Japhet! means that the beauty of Japhet will be in Shem's tents. (5)

Consequently, many of the beautiful Japhetic peoples will be attracted to Messiah and to Shem in whose tent Messiah "dwells." In fact, the Hebrew root for dwell is shachan, the same root for Shechina - the dwelling, or presence of God.

From the descendants of Shem, God chose Abraham, and of him, through Isaac and Jacob, the Jewish nation evolved. The descendants of Japhet were all gentiles. The gentiles will be attracted to God through the Messiah who will come from the seed of Shem. Targum Pseudo-Jonathan explains it this way:

May God beautify Japhet's border, and his sons will become proselytes and will dwell in the religious dwellings of Shem.

From this context it becomes clear that the Messiah will come from the seed of Shem, although many non-Semites will be attracted to Shem and hence to the Messiah. Translated, this means that many non-Jewish people will love the Jewish people and will see the Messiah because of them.

Chapter 4 References: 1 Genesis 6:4-5 2 Genesis 9:26-27 3 Psalms 45:2 4 Yoma 9b-10a 5 Megillah 9h **What The Rabbis Know of the Messiah** by Rachmiel Frydland Reprinted with permission *Messianic Literature Outreach* www.messianicliterature.org

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HOW JESUS REALLY RETURNS



Over 20 million people think that Christ has already returned. While they use isolated Bible verses to support their views, let's see what *all* the scriptures have to say.

In Matt 24:3-5 Jesus' disciples asked him, *When will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age? Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name claiming "I am the Christ" and will deceive many.*

THE RAPTURE [in the air, not to the earth. see page 1]

Angels will gather the elect in the rapture. Matt. 24:40-42, Mark 13:27, Luke 17:34-35, 1 Thess. 4:16-18, Rev. 14:14-16.

No one will predict the day or hour of the rapture. Matt. 24:36, Mark 13:32 1 Th. 5:4

PRECONDITIONS OF HIS PHYSICAL RETURN TO THE EARTH

-Many false Christ's will deceive many. Matt. 24:4-5,24, Mark 13:6,22, Luke 21:8

-Wars and rumors of wars. Matt. 24:6, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9-10

-Famines, earthquakes, pestilence, fearful events, great signs from heaven. Matt. 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11, Rev.

6:1-8,14, 8:5

--- **The previous was just the beginning.**

Matt. 24:9, Mark 13:7-8, Luke 21:9, Rev. 6:11

-**Persecution of believers.** Matt. 24:9, Mark 13:9,11, Luke 21:12, Rev. 6:9-11

-**Many will turn away from the faith and betray and hate each other.** Matt. 24:10, Mark

13:12, Luke 21:16

-**Many false prophets will deceive many.** Matt. 24:5,11,24, Mark 13:6,22, 1 Tim. 4:1-2, 2 Tim. 4:3-4

-**Increase of wickedness and love of most will grow cold.** Matt. 24:12, 2 Tim. 3:1-3

-**Gospel preached throughout the whole world.** Matt. 24:14, Mark 13:10. Note: Wycliffe Bible translators and others are actively working on that.

-**An abomination that causes desolation in the holy place as Daniel spoke of (Dan 9:27 on the wing of the Temple in Jerusalem).** Matt. 24:15, Mark 13:14, 2 Thess. 2:4. Note: There is not a temple in Jerusalem today.

-**About a month later** (Dan. 12:11 minus Rev. 13:5) great distress. Matt. 24:16-22, Mark 13:14-20, Luke 21:22-24, Rev. 8:6-9:21

-**Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles** for 3½ (lunar) years. Luke 21:24, Rev. 11:2, Rev. 13:15, Dan. 12:6. Note: 2/3 of inhabitants killed (Zech. 13:8)

-**Two witnesses will prophesy for 3½ (lunar) years.** Rev. 11:3

-**Believers taken care of for 3½ (lunar) years.** Rev. 12:7,14

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HOW JESUS REALLY RETURNS

-This generation (or race) will not pass away until all this happens. Matt. 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32

Jesus' words will never pass away. Matt 24:35, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:33



What to Watch for and Do

First, watch that no one deceives us. Matt. 24:4, Mark 13:5, Luke 17:23, 21:8

Stand firm [in Jesus] until the end. Matt. 24:13, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:19 **If anyone says, "Look here is the Christ", do not believe it.** Matt. 24:23-26, Mark 13:21, Luke 21:8

It will be as obvious as lightning flashing across the sky. Matt. 24:27, Luke 17:24 Do not seek Christ in the desert, or in an inner room (prison?). Matt.24:26

Those in Judea must flee to the mountains when the abomination Daniel (9:27) described appears. Matt. 24:16, Mark 13:14, Luke 21:21

Watch in the heavens. Matt. 24:29-30, Mark 13:24-26, Is. 13:10,34:4, Lk. 21:25-27

Come out of Babylon. Rev. 18:4

Be alert, and don't be caught (spiritually) sleeping when Christ returns. Mk. 13:33-37

Long for Christ's return. 2 Tim. 4:8, Rev. 22:17,20.

How Jesus will Return to the earth

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Matt. 24:29, Mark 13:24-25, Is. 13:10, 34:4, Luke 21:25, Rev. 6:12-14

All nations will mourn and see Christ coming on the clouds in the sky with power and great glory. Mt24:30, Mk13:26, Rv1:7

Christ (son of man) will appear in the sky. Matt. 24:30, Mark 13:26, Rev. 19:11-18.

Men will faint from terror, hiding in caves when Jesus comes. Luke 21:26, Rev. 6:15

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. Rev. 1:7

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one but he himself knows. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Rev 19:1-16

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BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMES!

these events caused the disciples to be greatly disturbed. In order to ease their fears, Jesus made the following comforting promise:

Let not your heart be troubled; ye 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 ye may be also (KJV, Jn. 14:1-3).

Jewish Marriage Customs

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 drawing an analogy from 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.

The first major step in a Jewish marriage was betrothal. **1** 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 prospective bridegroom taking the initiative. **2** 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. **3** Once



the bridegroom paid the purchase price, the marriage covenant was thereby established, and the young man and woman were regarded to be husband and wife. **4** From that moment on the bride was declared to be consecrated or sanctified, set apart exclusively for her bridegroom. **5** As a symbol of the covenant relationship that had been established, the groom and bride would drink from a cup of wine over which a betrothal benediction had been pronounced. **6** After the marriage covenant had been established, the groom would leave the home of the bride and return to his father's house. There he would remain separate from his bride for a period of twelve months. **7** This period of separation afforded the bride time to gather her trousseau and to prepare for married life. **8** The groom occupied himself with the preparation of living accommodations in his father's house to which he could bring his bride.

At the end of the period of separation the groom would come to take his bride to live with him. The taking of the bride usually took place at night. The groom, best man and other male escorts would leave the groom's father's house and conduct a torch light procession to the home of the bride. **9** Although the bride was expecting her groom to come for her, she did not know the exact time of his coming. **10** As a result the groom's arrival would be preceded by a shout. **11** This shout would forewarn the bride to be prepared for the coming of the groom.

After the groom received his bride together with her female attendants, the enlarged wedding party would return from the bride's home to the groom's father's

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THE BRIDEGROOM COMES!

house. **12** Upon arrival there the wedding party would find that the wedding guests had assembled already.

Shortly after arrival the bride and groom would be escorted by the other members of the wedding party to the bridal chamber (huppah). Prior to entering the chamber the bride remained veiled so that no one could see her face. **13** While the groomsmen and bridesmaids would wait outside, the bride and groom would enter the bridal chamber alone. There in the privacy of that place they would enter into physical union for the first time, thereby consummating the marriage that had been covenanted earlier. **14** After the marriage was consummated, the groom would announce the consummation to the other members of the wedding party waiting outside the chamber (Jn. 3:29). These people would pass on the news of the marital union to the wedding guests. **15** Upon receiving this good news the wedding guests would feast and make merry for the next seven days. **16**

During the seven days of the wedding festivities, which were sometimes called "the seven days of the huppah" the bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber. **17** At the conclusion of these seven days the groom would bring his bride out of the bridal chamber, now with her veil removed, so that all could



see who his bride was.

The Examination of the Analogy

Earlier it was stated that in His promise in John 14 Jesus drew an analogy from Jewish marriage customs in biblical times. Now that the marriage customs have been considered, it is essential that the analogy be examined. In what ways was Jesus' promise analogous with Jewish marriage customs?

In the examination of the analogy the first thing that should be noted is the fact that the Scriptures regard the Church to be the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-33). In addition, just as the Jewish bridegroom took the initiative in marriage by leaving his father's house and traveling to the home of the prospective bride, so Jesus left his Father's house in Heaven and traveled to earth, the home of His prospective Church, over 1900 years ago.

In the same manner as the Jewish bridegroom came to the bride's home for the purpose of obtaining her through the establishment of a marriage covenant, so Jesus came to earth for the purpose of obtaining the Church through the establishment of a covenant. On the same night in which Jesus made His promise in John 14 He instituted communion. As He passed the cup of wine to His disciples, He said: "This cup is the new covenant in My blood" (NASV, 1 Cor. 11:25). This was His way of saying that He would establish a new covenant through the shedding of His blood on the cross.

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HOW JESUS REALLY RETURNS



They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. Acts 1:10-11

False Views of Christ's Return

False teaching about the last days is as old as the Bible. Paul said in 2 Tim 2:17-18 "Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place and they destroy the faith of some." Thus even in Paul's day some said the resurrection had already taken place. Below are some more modern errors.

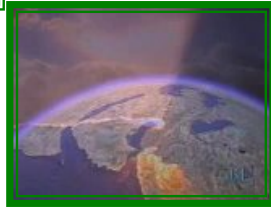
Jim Jones claimed Christ was inside of him in a special way.

Rev. Moon: the Bible says Christ will come back in the clouds. Since one verse in the entire Bible, Heb 12:1, mentions clouds of witnesses as groups of people, Christ will come among crowds of people. Rev. Moon's followers believe him to be the Lord of the Second Advent, Christ returned, visible God.

Bahais: Bahauallah is the fulfillment of Christ's second coming, as well as the reappearance of the twelfth imam in Shiite Moslem tradition.

Every eye did not see him, the world did not see Jesus in the

sky, and the nations did not mourn because of Bahauallah. He is dead now, so unless he comes back he cannot fulfill the rest of these prophecies.



Divine Light Mission: Guru Mahara Ji is Christ returned; that is why his followers have elaborate ceremonies where they kiss his feet. He came from India to America in an airplane, right? The airplane flew through clouds, right? Right???

Jehovah's Witnesses claim Christ would return in 1874, 1914, 1918, 1925, and 1975. Some said he did return in 1918, but you had to have "spiritual eyes" to see him. Others may admit that the Watchtower led people astray on that.

Conclusion

Many have tried to make one or two of the prophecies of Christ's return apply to them, but they cannot make all the verses apply. They ignore the others either by believing the Bible is unimportant, or else by saying the verses that prove them wrong have a deeper, "spiritual" meaning. Parts of the Bible do indeed have a spiritual meaning, but some too easily turn phrase "spiritual meaning" into an excuse for calling the literal meaning a lie.

Two questions: For every verse that is said to have a "deeper, spiritual meaning" one way to tell if that is just an excuse is if one can even say what that spiritual meaning is. For example, what is the meaning of: "when every eye will see him, even those who pierced him," "he will come back the same way the apostles saw him go into heaven," and "men will faint with terror and hide in caves and among rocks because of his appearing?"

A second question for those who believe Christ already has returned is this: if God really did mean that

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BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMES!



Parallel to the custom of the Jewish groom paying a price to purchase his bride, Jesus paid a price to purchase His Bride, the Church. The price that He paid was His own life blood. It was because of this purchase price that Paul wrote the following to members of the Church: "... do you not know... that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (NASV, 1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Analogous with the Jewish bride being 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, 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; 13:12).

In the same way that a cup of wine served as a symbol of the marriage covenant through which the Jewish groom obtained his bride, so the cup of communion serves as the symbol of the covenant through which Christ has obtained the Church (1 Cor. 11:25).

Just as the Jewish groom left the home of his bride and returned to his father's house after the marriage covenant had been established, so Jesus left the earth, the home of the Church, and returned to His Father's house in Heaven after He had established the new covenant and risen from the dead (Jn. 6:62; 20:17).

In correspondence with the period of separation between the Jewish groom and bride, Christ has remained separate from the Church for over 1900 years. The Church is now living in that period of separation.

Parallel to the custom of the Jewish groom preparing living accommodations for his bride in his father's house during the time of separation, Christ has been preparing living accommodations for the Church in His Father's house in Heaven during His separation from His Bride (Jn. 14:2).

In the same manner as the Jewish groom came to take his bride to live with him at the end of the period of separation, so Christ will come to take the Church to live with Him at the end of His period of separation from the Church (Jn. 14:3). Just as the taking of the Jewish bride was accomplished by a procession of the groom and male escorts from the groom's father's house to the home of the bride, so the taking of the Church will be accomplished by a procession of Christ and an angelic escort from Christ's Father's house in Heaven to the home of the Church (1 Th. 4:16). Analogous with the Jewish bride not knowing the exact time of the groom's coming for

her, the Church does not know the exact time of Christ's coming for her. In the same way that the Jewish groom's arrival was preceded by a shout, so Christ's arrival to take the Church will be preceded by a shout (1 Th. 4:16).

Similar to the Jewish bride's return with the groom to his father's house after her departure from her home, the Church will return with Christ to His Father's house in Heaven after she is snatched from the earth to meet Him in the air (1 Th.

4:17; jn. 14:2-3).

In the same manner as the Jewish wedding party found wedding guests assembled in the groom's father's house when they arrived, so Christ and the Church will find the souls of Old Testament saints assembled in Heaven when they arrive. These souls will serve as the wedding guests.

Parallel to the custom of the Jewish groom and bride entering into physical union after their arrival at the groom's father's house, thereby consummating the marriage that had been covenanted earlier, Christ and the Church will experience spiritual union after their arrival at His Father's house in Heaven thereby consummating their relationship that had been covenanted earlier.

In correspondence with the Jewish bride remaining hidden in the bridal chamber for a period of seven days after arrival at the groom's father's house, the Church will remain hidden for a period of seven years after arrival at Christ's Father's house in Heaven. While the seven year Tribulation Period is taking place on the earth, the Church will be in Heaven totally hidden from the sight of those living on the earth.

Just as the Jewish groom brought his bride out of the bridal chamber at the conclusion of the seven days with her veil removed, so that all could see who his bride was, so Christ will bring the Church out of Heaven in His Second Coming at the conclusion of the seven year Tribulation Period in full view of all who are alive, so that all can see who the true Church is (Col. 3:4).

The Significance of the Analogy

This analogy between Jewish marriage customs and Christ's relationship to the Church is very beautiful but what practical significance does it have for today?

The answer to this question is twofold. First, if you have never taken Jesus Christ personally to be your Savior from sin, it has great significance for you. Christ came to this earth and died on a cross for the purpose of paying the penalty for your sins. Through the shedding of His blood He paid the price necessary to purchase you to be part of His Bride, the Church. He thereby established a new covenant through which you can enter into a special relationship with Him.

Every time the gospel of Jesus Christ is declared to you, Christ is proposing that you enter into this special relationship with Him. In essence He is saying to you:

I Jesus, take thee, sinner, to be My Bride. And I do promise and covenant before God The Father and these witnesses, to be thy loving and faithful Savior and Bridegroom; in sickness and in health in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in faithfulness and in waywardness, for time and for eternity. 18

Just as the proposal that the Jewish bridegroom made could be accepted or rejected, so Christ's proposal to you can be accepted or rejected. If you reject it throughout this life time, then you never will be rightly related to Jesus Christ. The tragic result will be that you will spend eternity separated from God and Christ in the eternal lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

If, however, you accept Christ's proposal,

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BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMES!



then your sins will be forgiven, and you will enter into that relationship that makes you part of His Bride, the Church. In addition, you will go to be with Him when He comes to take the Church, and you will remain with Him forever in great blessing.

The way in which you can accept Christ's proposal is quite simple. If you sincerely believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He came to this earth, died for your sins and rose from the dead, then respond to Him as follows:

I, sinner, take Thee, Jesus, to be my Savior... And I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses to be Thy loving and faithful Bride; in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, for time and for eternity. 19

Second, the analogy is most significant also for those who have taken Christ to be Savior. During the time of separation between the establishment of the marriage covenant and the coming of the bridegroom to take his bride, it was possible for the Jewish bride to commit adultery by giving herself to another man. 10 In like manner 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:

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (NASV, 2 Cor. 11:2-3).

James expressed the same concern when he rebuked Christians as follows: *"You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (NASV, Jas. 4:4). The context of James's statement indicates that spiritual adultery is committed when a believer becomes more devoted to the godless world system and the things that please it than he is to Jesus Christ and the things that please Him.

If you are a believer, honestly evaluate your devotion to

Jesus Christ. Do you love Him as much now as when you took Him to be your Savior? Is He truly the center of your existence, the One who gives your life its meaning and purpose? Is your every attitude, action and lifestyle motivated and controlled by your devotion to Jesus Christ, or by a desire to have the friendship of the world system in which you live?

If you have been unfaithful to your heavenly Bridegroom, confess this to Him and be assured that even *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself"* (NASV, 2 Tim. 2:13). Then trust the Holy Spirit to renew your devotion as you wait for your heavenly Bridegroom to come at any moment.

- FOOTNOTES** (1) "Marriage," **The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia**, ed. Isaac Landman (New York: Universal Jewish Encyclopedia Co., Inc., 1948), 7, 372.
 (2) David R. Mace, **Hebrew Marriage** (New York: Philosophical Library, 1953), p. 167. (3) "Marriage," p. 372.
 (4) "Betrothal," **The Jewish Encyclopedia**, ed. Isidore Singer (New York: Funk and Wagnals Company, 1907), III, 126-26.
 (5) George F. Moore, **Judaism** (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1946), 11, 121.
 (6) "Marriage," p. 373. (7) **Ibid.**, p. 372. (8) **Ibid.**
 (9) George B. Eager, "Marriage," **The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia**, ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1957), III, 1998.
 (10) Emma Williams Gill, **Home Life In The Bible** (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1936), p. 20.
 (11) James Neil, **Everyday Life In The Holy Land** (New York: Cassell and Company, Limited, 1913), p. 251.
 (12) J. J. Jeremias, **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**, ed. Gerhard Kittel, trans. and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, IV (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1967), pp. 1099-1100.
 (13) "Veiling Of The Bride," **The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia**, ed. Isaac Landman (New York: Universal Jewish Encyclopedia Co., Inc., 1948), 10, 399.
 (14) "Marriage," p. 373. (15) "Huppah," **The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia**, ed. Isaac Landman (New York: Universal Jewish Encyclopedia Co., Inc., 1948), 5, 504.
 (16) **Ibid.** (17) **Ibid.** (18) Donald G. Barnhouse, **God's Freedom** (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1961), p. 191.
 (19) **Ibid.**
 (20) Alfred Edersheim, **Sketches of Jewish Social Life In the Days of Christ** (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964), p. 148. **Courtesy of: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc.** P.O. Box 908 Bellmawr, NJ 08099 800-257-7843

MUSLIM JESUS VS. BIBLICAL JESUS

7. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WHO IS AN INVOLUNTARY SLAVE TO ALLAH (IN THAT A SLAVE IS NOT FREE)
BIBLICAL JESUS MADE HIMSELF A VOLUNTARY SERVANT
8. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WAS NEVER CRUCIFIED AND THEREFORE WAS NOT RESURRECTED
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO (BY HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION) SAVED HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS
9. **ISLAMIC JESUS** IS NOT THE GOD IN THE FLESH AS THE MESSIAH
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO IS THE WORD MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US AND IS THE SON OF GOD
10. **ISLAMIC JESUS** CANNOT BE WORSHIPPED
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO IS COMMANDED BE WORSHIPPED
11. **ISLAMIC JESUS** NOT FIT TO BE INTERCESSOR

BIBLICAL JESUS IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

12. **ISLAMIC JESUS** IS SIMPLY ANOTHER PROPHET
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO IS THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES
13. **ISLAMIC JESUS** RETURNS IN YELLOW GARMENTS
BIBLICAL JESUS RETURNS ARRAYED IN WHITE LIGHT
14. **ISLAMIC JESUS** LANDS ON A MINARET IN DAMASCUS, SYRIA
BIBLICAL JESUS DESCENDS AND LANDS ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES NEAR JERUSALEM
15. **ISLAMIC JESUS** DESTROYS ANTICHRIST AT LYDDA (IN ISRAEL)
BIBLICAL JESUS DESTROYS ANTICHRIST WITH THE SPIRIT OF HIS MOUTH AT HIS RETURN TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
16. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WHO RETURNS WILL NOT BE PIERCED
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO WAS PIERCED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS
17. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WILL MARRY A WOMAN AND HAVE CHILDREN
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO WILL MARRY HIS BRIDE CHRIST (THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH) AT THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB

MUSLIM JESUS vs. BIBLICAL JESUS

- 18. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WILL BREAK EVERY CROSS
BIBLICAL JESUS WHO BREAKS EVERY CURSE OF SIN AND DEATH
- 19. **ISLAMIC JESUS** WILL DIE FORTY YEARS AFTER HIS RETURN
BIBLICAL JESUS IS ALIVE FOREVERMORE
- 20. **LOVE:**

ISLAMIC JESUS: There is no Scripture in the Koran or Haddiths (Life & Sayings of Muhammad) which speaks of Jesus' love for the world.

BIBLICAL JESUS WHO LOVES THE WORLD: *A new commandment I give unto you (Jesus Christ speaking), That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* John 13:34

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God. which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8: 38-39

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 2 Thessalonians 2:16

Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and

love. 2 John 1:3

And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, Revelation 1:5

FOR FULL REFERENCES OF THESE POINTS please refer to:
www.menorah.org/Muslim_Jesus_vs_Biblical_Jesus.pdf

Continued from page 5

HOW JESUS REALLY RETURNS



Christ was to literally, physically return in the physical clouds, how could God have been any more clear in the Bible?

In the end, Philippians 2:9-11 says *every knee (including Bahauallah's) will bow to Jesus.*

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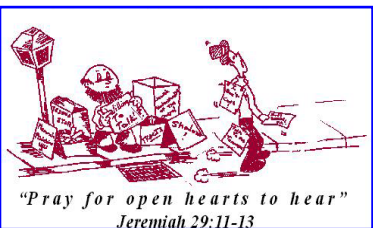
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Jeremiah 29:11-13

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