

# The Gift and the Giver

Pentecost Sunday

2026

# Ancient Jewish Betrothal and Marriage

- Parents (Father of Groom) selects a Bride for His Son
- Marriage Contract is negotiated (by the Father)
- Groom travels to home of prospective Bride. He brings:
  - Marriage contract (ketubah)
  - The negotiated Bride Price (mohar)
  - A (betrothal) cup of wine
  - A gift for the Bride (something of value)
- Bride brings the negotiated Bridal Dowry (nedunyah)

# Marriage: Preparation and Consummation

## After the Betrothal

- The Bride remains at her home and prepares for her Groom
  - Preparing, training to be a good spouse
  - Cleansing, beauty treatments, and purification:
    - both physical cleansing and learning purity of character
- The Groom returns to his Father's house and prepares
  - He builds a dwelling place (the Bridal chamber) for his new family
- Some time later... (typically up to a year)
  - The Father decides when the Groom and his Bridal chamber are ready
    - Neither the Groom nor the Bride knows when this will be!
  - The Groom collects some friends, and they go to retrieve the Bride
    - The Groom's best friend blows a trumpet, as they walk through the town to the Bride's house
    - The Groom is called the "Thief in the Night"; He 'catches the bride away' to the Bridal Chamber he has prepared
- The marriage is fully consummated (the two become one): then a great Feast is called.

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# The Gift

# The Gift Foretold

- God Promises a New Marriage Covenant, through Jeremiah

"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant ... not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them**, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (Jer 31:31-33)

# The Gift Foretold

- **God's new covenant involves putting a New Spirit within you; My Spirit!**
  - I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants
  - My Spirit will cleanse you,
  - My Spirit will write my laws on your hearts,
  - My Spirit will cause you to walk in my statutes and keep my commandments
  - My Spirit will give you a new heart
  - When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.
  - Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.. I will even pour out my Spirit on your servants and slaves...
  - It will be for all peoples and all nations!!

See Ezekiel 11:19-20, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Isaiah 44:3, Isaiah 59:19, Joel 2:28-32 etc.

**God knows that we CANNOT live righteously or keep God's commands on our own. God planned from of old to give us this great Gift! It is the only way!!**

# Fast Forward to the New Testament

## The Last Supper of Jesus with His Disciples

As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “**Take this and eat it, for this is my body.**”

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “**Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.** (Matt 26:26-28)

# After the Betrothal, Jesus Prepares to Leave His new Bride

- **I am Going to prepare a place for you, and will return for you!**

Simon Peter asked, “Lord, where are you going?” And Jesus replied, “**You can’t go with me now, but you will follow me later.**”(John 13:36)

“**Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.**(John 14:1-3)

# Jesus Promises **The Gift**

- **I am going back to My Father, but I will not leave you alone; in fact, I will be with You!**
  - How is that possible??

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. **He is the Holy Spirit**, who leads into all truth.

The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because **He lives with you now and later will be in you.**

No, I will not abandon you as orphans—**I will come to you.** Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. (John 14:16-19)

# Jesus Instructs His Bride to Wait for **The Gift**

After rising from the dead, Jesus said:

**“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”**(Luke 24:49)

Why wait??

# The Holy Spirit is Given

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. (Acts 2:1-4)

# The Holy Spirit is Given

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

(Acts 2:5-8)

They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other. (Acts 2:12)

# The Holy Spirit is Given – Peter Preaches

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, “Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o’clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.’ (Act 2:14-17)

But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’ “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. (Act 2:21-24)

# The Holy Spirit is Given – People Respond

Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38)

Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!”

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. (Acts 2:40-41)

# The Holy Spirit is Given

## The New Church is Born

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. (Act 2:42-43)

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

# What Have we Learned?

1. Treasure and value this great Gift to us, the Holy Spirit
2. Don't attempt to 'Do Church' without Him
  - OR we will fail just like people failed the Old Covenant. Paul called this having the form of Godliness, but denying the Power thereof
3. The Holy Spirit is a Person – treat Him with Great Respect.
  - He can feel wounded (grieved) by our indifference to His Presence, or by our indifference to the great price Jesus paid for us. He is jealous that we honour and lift up the Name of Christ.
4. It is *only* the Holy Spirit in us that makes the Gospel of Christ attractive to others
5. The Holy Spirit is a deposit, *guaranteeing* our eternal inheritance!
6. Keep preparing, purifying ourselves (allow the Holy Spirit to work in us!)
7. Keep looking forward to the return of Christ for His Bride, prepared and spotless, when the Father decides it is time

HOLY SPIRIT, WE NEED YOU!!