

**Who is the Bride and
Where is the Wedding?**

The doctrine of the pretribulational rapture requires holding a very sharp distinction between Israel and the Church.

This results in some bizarre and even heretical ideas.

Pretribulationism teaches that the Church is the bride who enjoys the marriage supper in heaven, while Israel suffers on the earth.

If Israel is the bride and the wedding is on the earth, in Jerusalem, then some of the primary pretrib arguments collapse.

The Exodus Romance

The Exodus story revolves around the theme of God as the Bridegroom pursuing Israel, His bride.

Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, “I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. Then *I will take* you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”

(Exodus 6:6–7)

Within the phrase “I will take you to be my people” (Ex 6:7), the key word is “take” (Hebrew: laqach).

Abram and Nahor “took wives for themselves” (Gn 11:29)

Ishmael’s mother Hagar “took a wife for him from the land of Egypt” (Gn 21:21)

Isaac “took Rebekah and she became his wife” (Gn 24:67)

Esau “took his wives from the daughters of Canaan” (Gn 36:2).

The Proposal

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My (segullah) own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”

(Exodus 19:5-6)

Israel Accepts the Proposal

“So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words which the Lord had commanded him. All the people answered together and said, ‘*All that the Lord has spoken we will do!*’ And Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord”

(Exodus 19:7-8a)

The Mikveh

**“The LORD also said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready’”
(Exodus 19:10)**

The Chuppah

So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and *a thick cloud upon the mountain* and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood *at the foot of the mountain.*

(Exodus 19:16-17)

The Ketubah and the “I Do”

Then Moses came and recounted to the people *all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances*; and all the people answered with one voice and said, *“All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!”*

(Exodus 24:3)

The Sealing of the Covenant

“Then Moses arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.”

(Exodus 24:4)

The Blood of the Covenant

“He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and **the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.**”

(Exodus 24:5-6)

Unto Death

“Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, ‘All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!’ **So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people**, and said, ‘Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.’”

(Exodus 24:7–8)

The Marriage Supper

“Then He said to Moses, ‘Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. Moses alone, however, shall come near to the Lord, but they shall not come near, nor shall the people come up with him.’”

(Exodus 24:1–2)

The Marriage Supper

“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. *But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.*”

(Exodus 24:9–11)

The Marriage Certificate

“Now the Lord said to Moses, ‘Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and *I will give you the stone tablets* with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.’ So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.”

(Exodus 24:12–13)

Israel is called YHWH's wife:

“Then I passed by you and saw you, and you were indeed at the age for love. So I spread the edge of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. *I pledged myself to you, entered into a covenant with you*—this is the declaration of the Lord God—and you became mine.”

(Ezekiel 16:8)

“Do not be afraid, for you will not be put to shame; don’t be humiliated, for you will not be disgraced. For you will forget the shame of your youth, and you will no longer remember the disgrace of your widowhood. *Indeed, your husband is your Maker—his name is the Lord of Armies*—and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of the whole earth.”

(Isaiah 54:4-5)

“I will take you to be my wife forever. I will take you to be my wife in righteousness, justice, love, and compassion. I will take you to be my wife in faithfulness, and you will know the Lord.”
(Hosea 2:19–20)

The Eschatological Wedding

“When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning, then the Lord will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a chuppah.”

(Isaiah 4:4–5)

“The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain (Zion); a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.”

(Isaiah 25:6–7)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands—*remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.* But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, *so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross,* by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household...*”

(Ephesians 2:8–19)

Jesus

“Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, ‘Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.’”

(Matthew 8:10–11)

When the hour had come, *He reclined at the table*, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, *I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.*” And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, *I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.*”

(Luke 22:14–18)

Looking Back, Looking Forward

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

**Pretrib makes the bizarre claim that Israel is the
Bride of Jehovah and the Church is the Bride of
Christ.**

There is only one bridegroom and one wedding.

Address the disgusting idea that we are in heaven, while Israel suffers on the earth.

The cliché that is often heard among pre-tribbers is that God would never beat up His bride. Israel is His bride.