

— Exodus 19 —
Exodus Series 27
The Betrothal at Mt. Sinai

Ex 19 ¹ In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. ² For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain. ³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." ⁷ So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. ¹⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. ¹¹ And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. ¹³ Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain." ¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. ¹⁵ And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives." ¹⁶ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. ¹⁹ And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice. ²⁰ Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. ²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish. ²² Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them." ²³ But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.' " ²⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them." ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

► **God refers** to the proceedings at Mt Sinai as a

_____.

Jer 2 ² Thus says the LORD: "I remember ... the love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness" ... 3 ¹⁴ "Return, O backsliding children for I am married to you"

► **Ancient Hebrews** divided weddings into two ceremonies, separated by as much as a year:

1) *The betrothal ceremony*, at which the _____ were exchanged before witnesses, and the couple became husband and wife in a legally binding way, so that infidelity thereafter was _____, and undoing the betrothal required a _____.

Mt 1 ¹⁸ After ... Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband ... was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

See Mt 25.1-13 The parable of the wise and foolish virgins (bridesmaids).

2) *The wedding* _____. The date was known only to the groom's father, so the groom and bride and their attendants had to be _____. The feast could last up to a week. During it, the couple would enter the marital chamber and _____ the marriage.

See Jn 2.1-11 The wedding in Cana.

► **The betrothal ceremony** at Mt Sinai:

1) *The parties state their intentions* to enter a covenant union and be _____ to one another (Ex 19.3-11).

2) *The obligations of the parties* are set forth and expounded in a _____ (Ex 19.16 – 23.19).

3) *The parties take their* _____, and the covenant is sealed (Ex 23.22 – 24.8).

4) *The parties have a fellowship* _____ (Ex 24.9-11).

5) *God commissions the building of a _____,*
so he can dwell among his people (Ex 25.8).

Heb 9 ⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

Acts 2 ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come ... ⁴ they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

2Cor 6 ¹⁶ [Y]ou are the temple of the living God.

Mt 22.1-14 The parable of the wedding feast.

Rv 19 ⁶ I heard ... the voice of a great multitude, ... saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" ... ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns ... ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.

Rv 22 ¹⁷ And the Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

► **The betrothal** at Mt Sinai sets the _____ for everything that follows in Scripture and in history. With that backdrop, lets go deeper into specific aspects of the betrothal.

► **1) This is** not the _____ time this bride has been betrothed to this groom. The first time was in the _____ of _____, where the covenant union was formed and rapidly broken.

Compare the royal wedding of Prince Charles & Lady Di.

Hos 6 ⁶ "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. ⁷ But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me."

Hos 1 ² [T]he Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

► **2) Because of** the bride's previous adultery, she was in _____ to the cruel master she committed adultery with, which is pictured by Israel's bondage to Pharaoh.

Heb 2 ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

► **3) Christ's statement** of intent to be faithful consists mainly of what he has already _____. Unlike the bride, Christ has already _____ his faithfulness.

► **4) To impress** upon the adulterous bride the new oath she is about to take, Christ:

- Emphasizes ritual _____;
- Requires a _____ day abstention from marital relations;
- Brings great _____ upon the bride.

Ex 20 ¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."