Marriage Symbolism

Saturday, February 14, 2026 4:27 PM



NICK
Good Evening,

We are so happy to be here with you all again for lesson 2 of Marriage Enrichment: Marriage Symbolism!

We have some special things planned for you all tonight so let's begin tonight by jumping right into a demonstration of your Abigail and Nabal cards!

Let's go around your tables and each couple take a turn in front of the group. Husbands, please begin with your Nabal traits, then wives you follow. Then husbands, speak your wife's Abigail traits and wives you respond.

(take 10-15 minutes)
BEN
Amen, was that life giving?
Like anything else in life, you will become more proficient at this the more you practice. This is a process meant to be repeated often and without limit, even multiple times per day!

Let's take a moment to revisit the sermons that you all watched starting with a Decent Proposal.

QUESTIONS:

- **How is God like a groom?** (3 responses)
- **How is the church the Bride?** (3 responses)

PETER

Amen, after our time together tonight, you will be able to understand these concepts with greater clarity and depth.

(READ SLIDE)



Let's move on to our first topic of the night: The Ezer!

EZER

Let’s talk about the word Ezer.

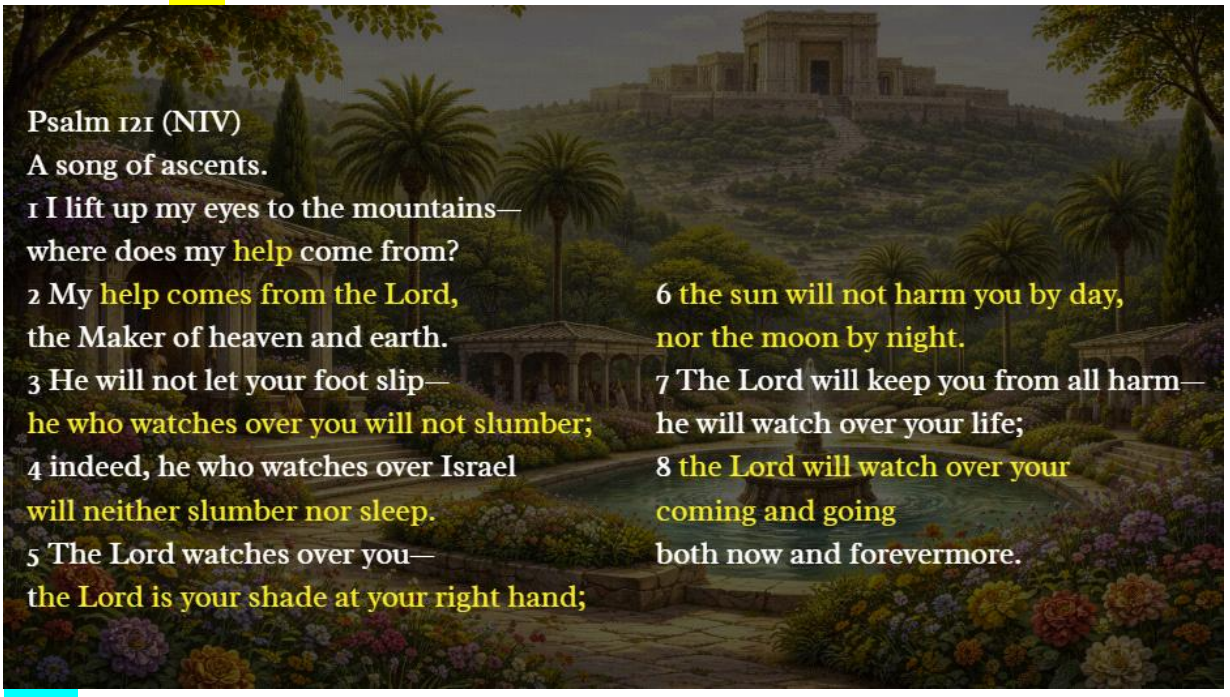
In Hebrew, the word translated “helper” in Genesis 2:18 is עֵזֶר (ezer). It does not mean assistant. It does not mean subordinate. It does not mean secondary.

Ezer means: one who helps us accomplish/achieve that which we can't do on our own.

It is a word used most often in the Old Testament to describe God Himself.

That should immediately challenge our assumptions.

Let's read: JOY



NICK

The word for “help” in verse 2 is ezer. If “ezer” meant inferior assistant, why would the Word of God use that same word to describe the Lord?

Obviously, we’ve missed something.

Ezer is not about hierarchy. An ezer is someone who brings essential help.

Let's read Psalm 121 again, and picture it almost like a girlfriend in high school wearing her boyfriends letterman jacket and bragging on how amazing he is.

- “He doesn't even let my foot slip”
- “He doesn't let anything harm me”
- “He's always watching over me…"

This is over-the-top praise, excessive admiration or confident boasting.

God is being described as a devoted groom who never stops watching over His bride.

In light of this, let's take a look at Gen 1 and see how important an ezer actually is:

LYNDIE

- **Genesis 1:26–28 (NIV)**

  26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so
  that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over
  the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that
  move along the ground.”

  27 So God created mankind in his own image,
  in the image of God he created them;
  male and female he created them.

  28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in
  number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the
  birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the
  ground.”

NICK

God gave Adam the vision, calling, and purpose before the woman was even created. This is by God's design. However, the vision that God gave to man could never be accomplished without the help of a God-given, treasured, cherished, and necessary ezer!

God gave work to be completed that could not be done alone!

This is why, there is only one place in the creation account where God says something is “not good.”

JODY

- **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

  18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make
  a helper suitable for him.”

BEN

What you must grasp about an ezer is that they are the essential, cherished person who helps you accomplish what you could not accomplish alone.

Your takeaway from this section should be: Adam was given the call first, and Eve was joined to it. Eve was created as Adam's ezer so that together, and only together, they could accomplish God's plan for mankind.

In our next section, we will examine relationship roles between Jesus, the Groom, and His bride, the church.

Jesus' relationship with the church informs us about how a husband or groom's relationship with his wife or bride should also function."

JODY

○ **Romans 5:8 (NIV)**
8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The husband is the one who should reflect the character of Christ in His relationship with the Church. Paul says that God/Christ demonstrated His love for His people while they were in a sinful state. This poses the question: Who rescued whom? The answer, of course, is that Christ is the one who saved. Thus, husbands need to reflect this by being the one who initiates in the relationship. Let's now talk about the wife.

JOY

○ **1 John 4:19 (NIV)**
19 We love because he first loved us.

PETER

The husband is the one who initiates love for the wife; she then reciprocates. You can see that we (the church) love God because God loved first—not the other way around. The wife's role is not to initiate love or saving acts. Her role is to reciprocate what the husband initiates.

When these functions in marriage are lived out by both husband and wife, they lead to the purpose of marriage, which is oneness with each other and with God.

This leads us into the next part of *Marriage Symbolism*—the **Direction of Love**. We are going to build upon what we just learned about the purpose of marriage and expand it.

JOY

○ **James 1:17 (NIV)**
17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Here, James describes how everything that is good and perfect comes from the Father—not some things, but everything. In our relationship with the Lord, He initiates and we reciprocate. He never changes this posture toward His people. Love and every good thing begins with God and flows down to us. The same is true in marriage: the direction of love is top-down, beginning with the husband.

JOY

○ **Ephesians 6:1 (NIV)**
Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

PETER

When the husband and wife have proper love and are walking in their purpose as a couple, their love continues in its proper direction and overflows into the family.

Children do not initiate love; the father does. His love toward his wife, and their love for each other, follows its proper direction and flows into the rest of the family. Children reciprocate this first and foremost through obedience.

NICK

4 Cups of Seder: 4 promises / 4 responsibilities

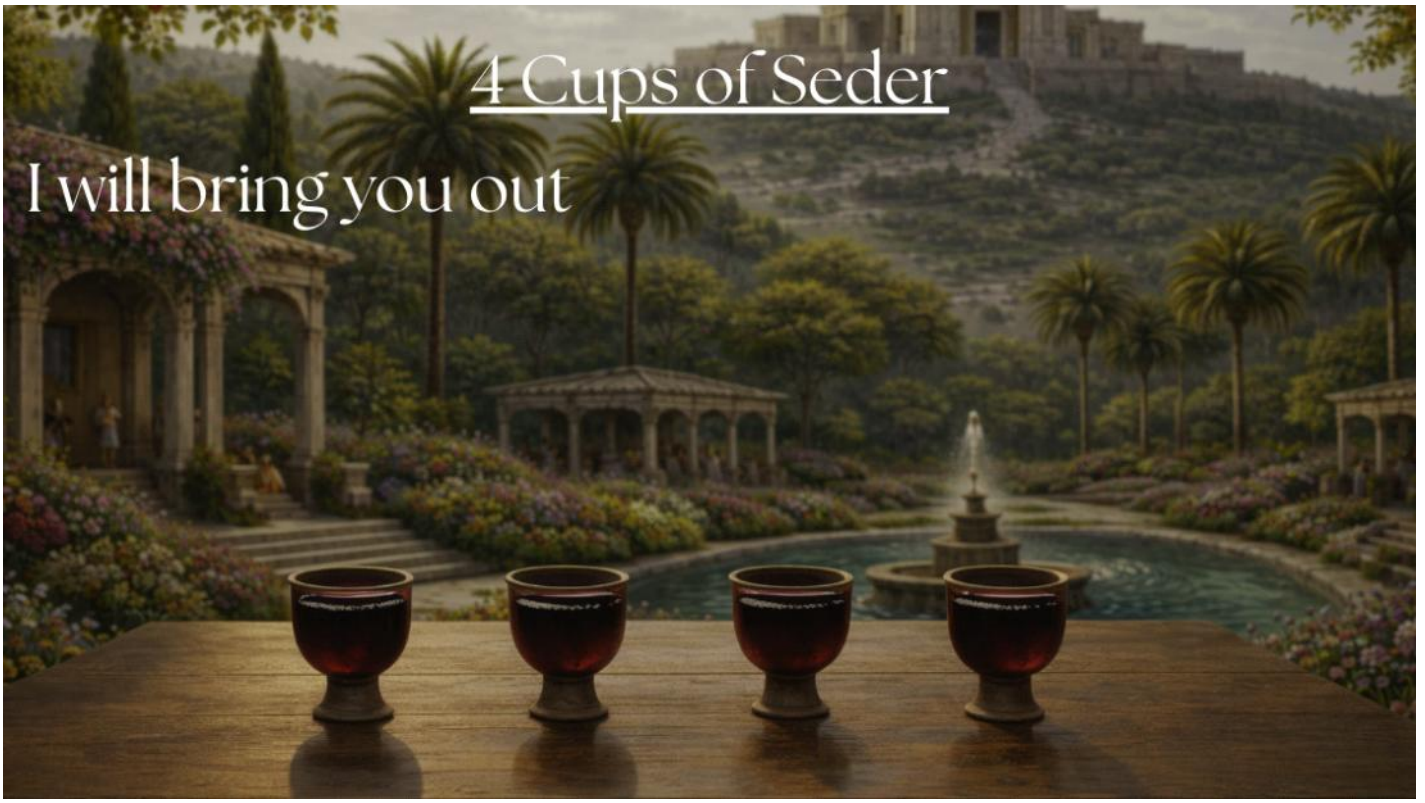
LYNDIE

- **Exodus 6:6–7 (NIV)**
  6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

NICK

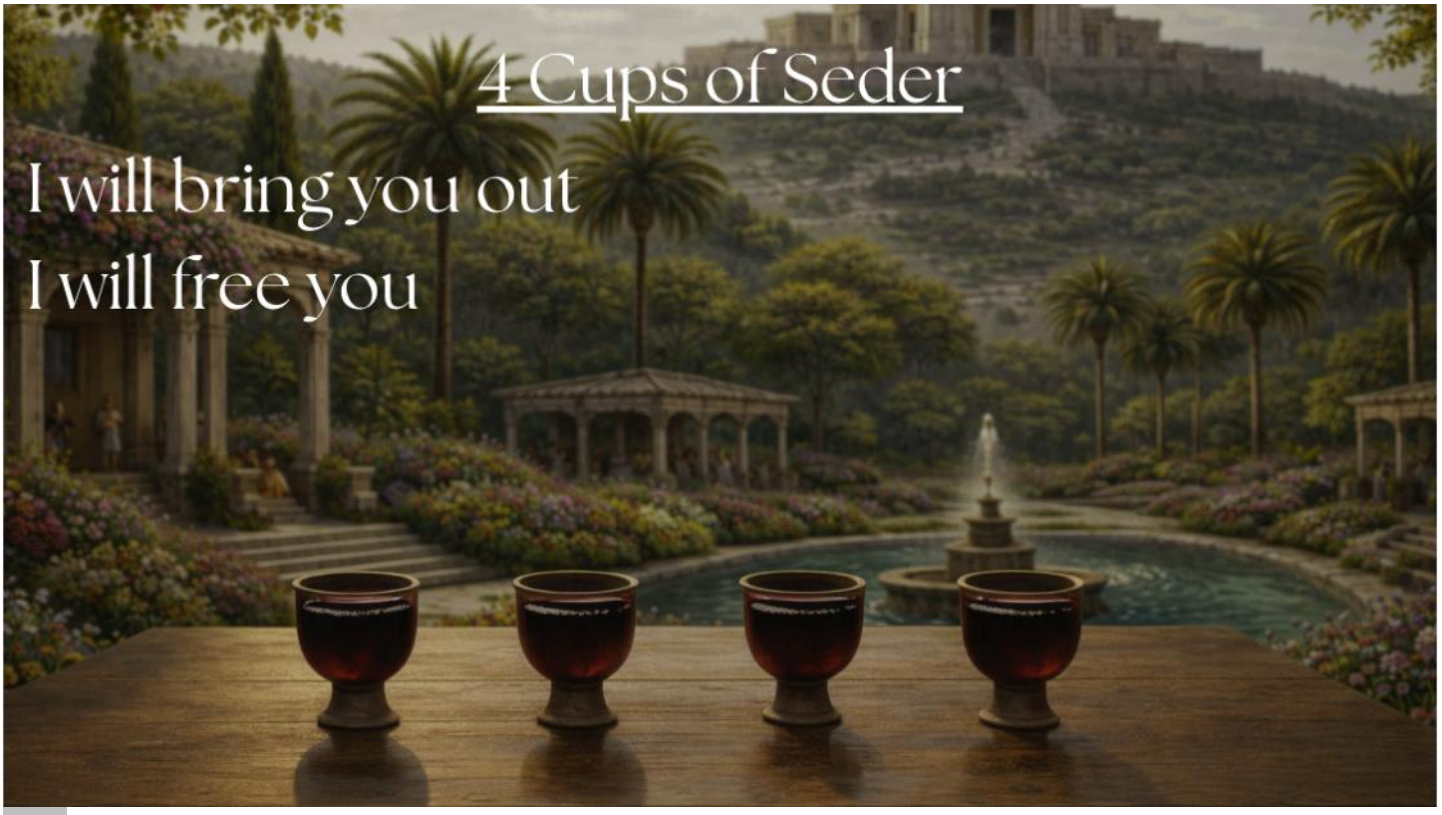
When God says to Israel in v.7 I will take you to be my people and I will be your God, this is marriage language. In fact all of what we are reading here is marriage language which leads to God marrying Israel at Mt. Sinai.

This would ultimately lead to the four promises expressed in the passage being remembered each time the Passover meal or seder was performed. The participants would share 4 cups of wine, associating each cup with a different promise made by the Lord to His bride. Let's take a closer look at the message each of these cups of promise speak.



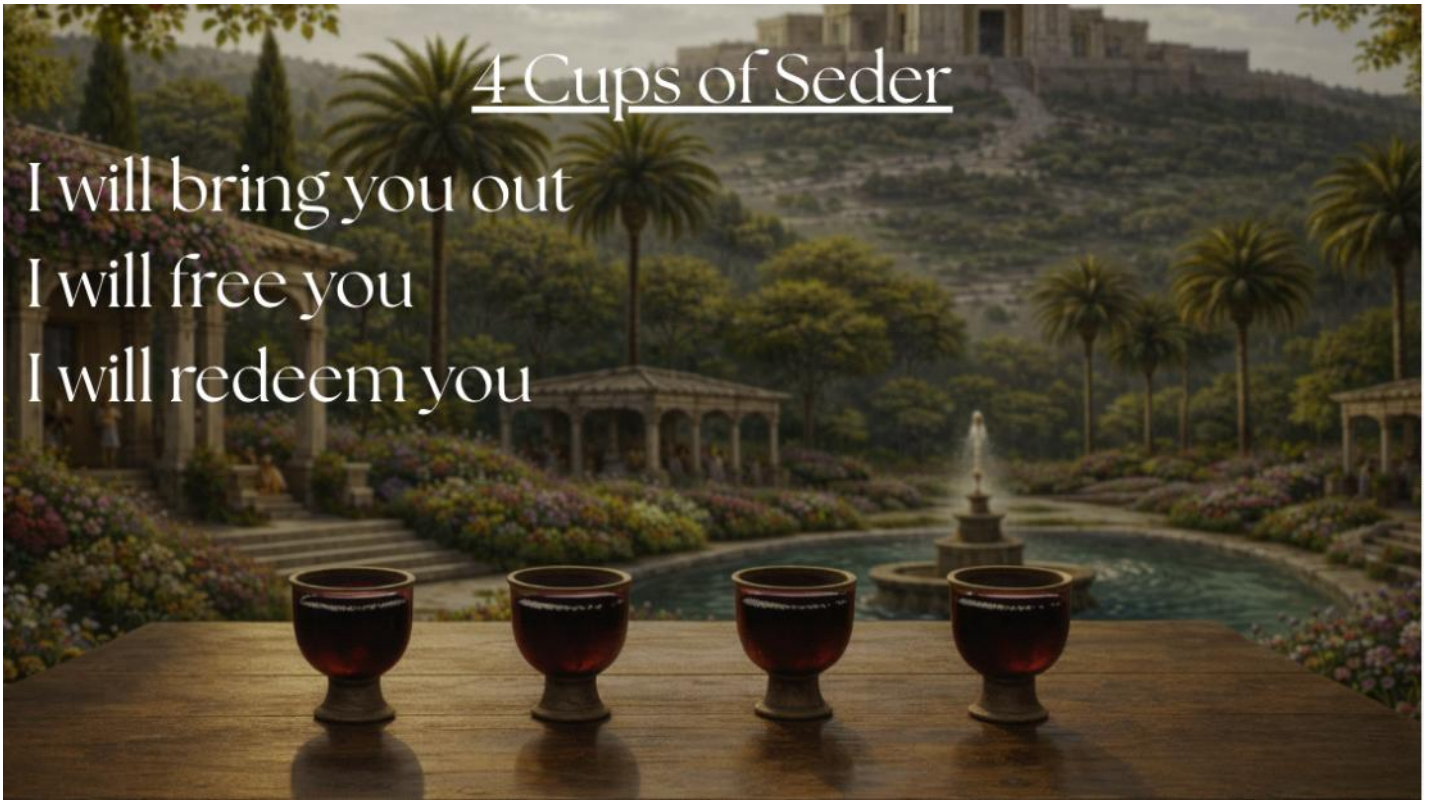
This 1st cup symbolizes how God as Israel's husband would bring them out from under their authority, which was Egypt, and bring them under His authority. This previous authority was described as a yoke.

As the husband, you brought your wife out from under her previous authority and under the covering of your authority. This was given as the 1st promise of four.

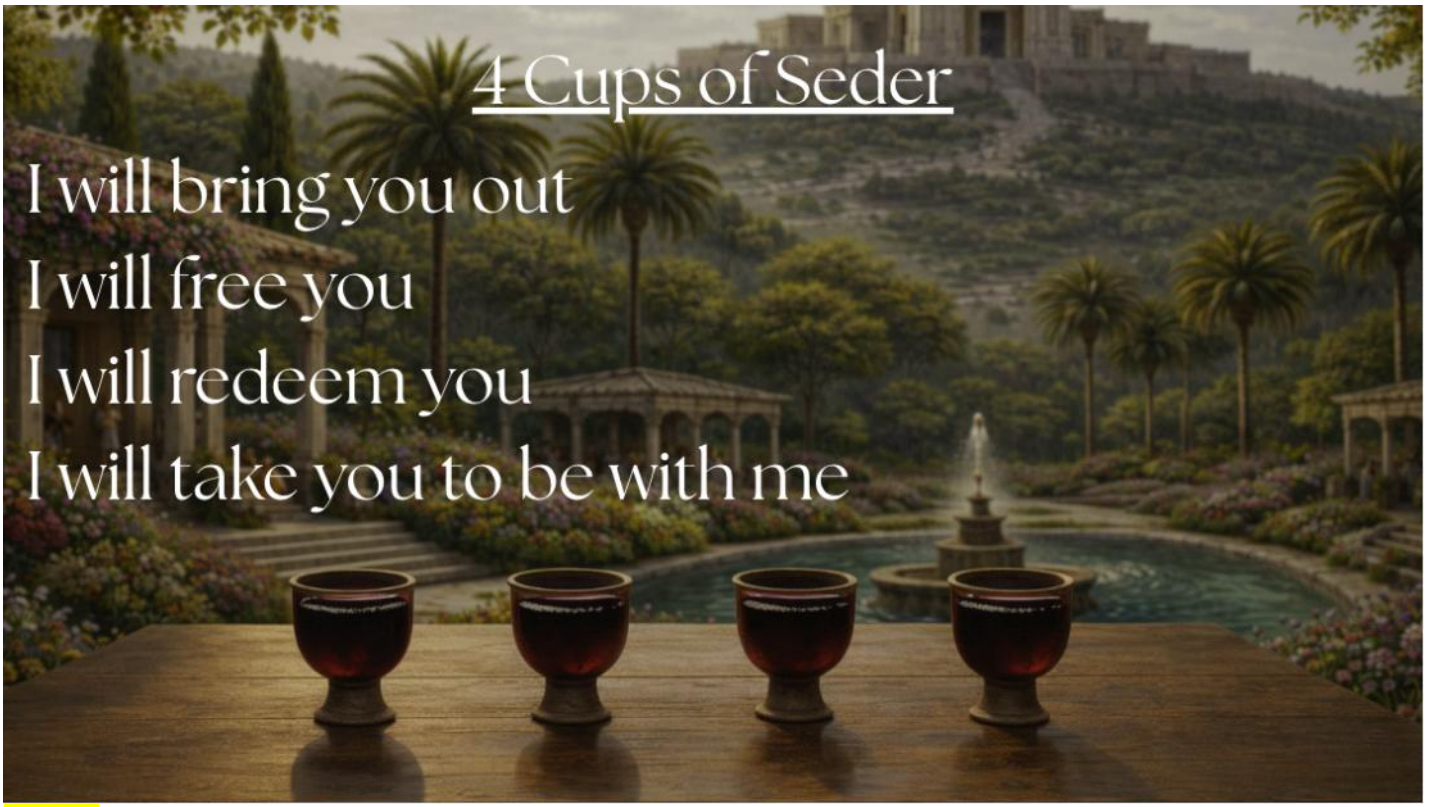


BEN

The 2nd cup represents the promise to free the Israelites from being slaves to the Egyptians. When the husband takes his wife in, he frees her from the incompleteness of her single life. This truly is like receiving freedom from the life that you lived on your own and apart from your essential helpmate.



The 3rd cup represents Adonai's promise to redeem the Israelites with an outstretched arm and mighty acts of judgment. This is a picture of the husband paying full price for his bride with acts of self sacrifice driven by his covenant love for her.



PETER

The final cup was the promise that He would take them to be with Him. That they would be His people and He would be their God. This is the husband taking the wife in and making her his own. She would not only take on his name but also his way of life and she would become his own.

In light of this beautiful revelation, look at what it resulted in after Adonai brought them out just like He said.

JOY

- **Exodus 19:4–6 (NIV)**
  4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on
  eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and
  keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured
  possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a
  kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to
  speak to the Israelites.”

PETER

The result of the Lord fulfilling His promises to Israel and them responding in obedience and submission would cause them to become a treasured possession to Him out of all the other nations. The fulfilment of His plan resulted in exclusivity and Israel becoming His treasured possession, not just one of many. This is the design of marriage. That the husband will follow God's example, that the wife would wholeheartedly follow the husband and she would become his exclusive treasure.

When a treasured and exclusive marriage is walking in its proper function the two are becoming one, and the couple is truly walking out their calling on the earth.

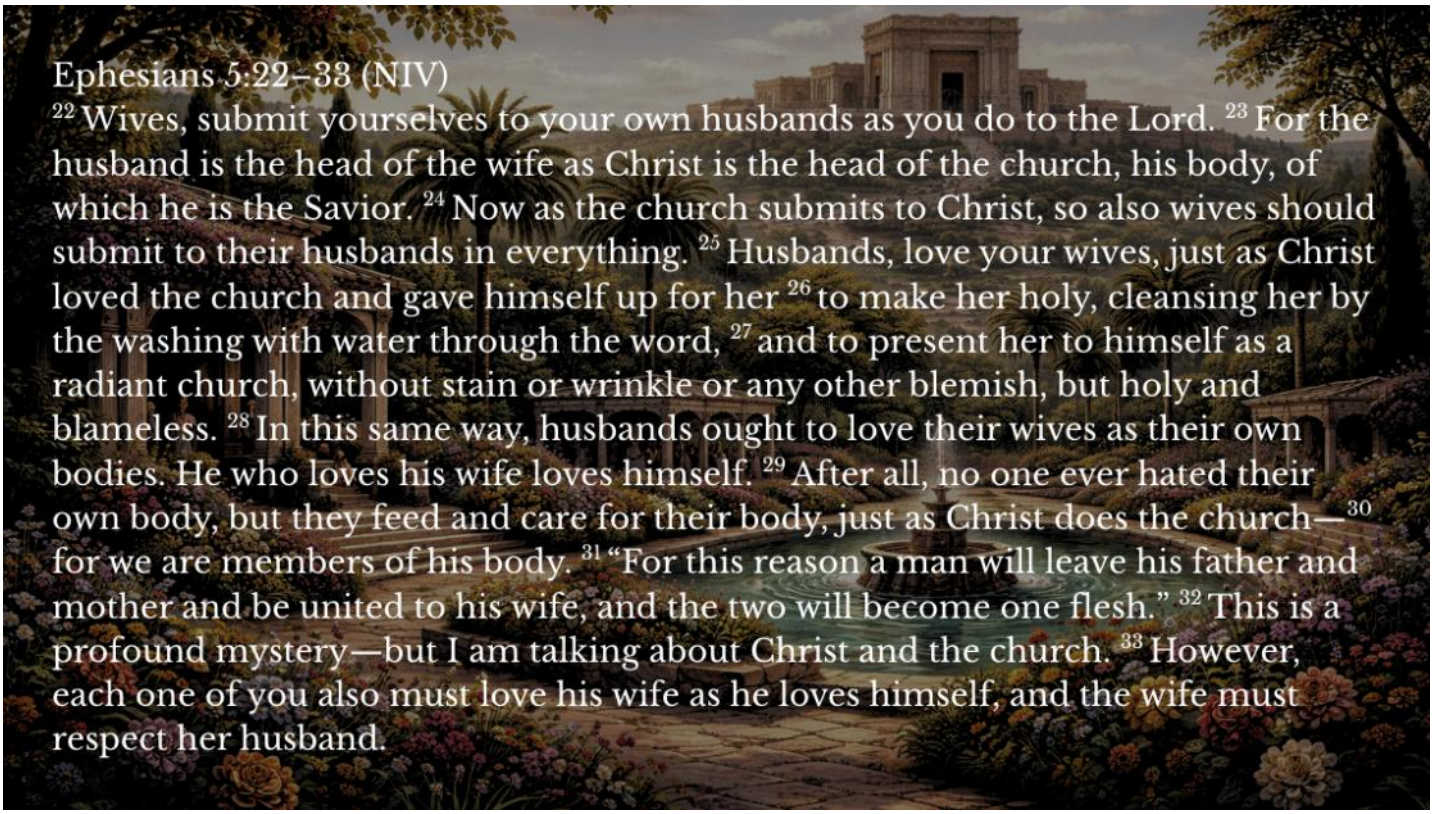
This leads us to our next topic: **Job Descriptions**.

NICK

We have already discussed the different functions of initiating and reciprocating in a marriage, but what else does the example from God instruct us about how husbands and wives must walk in those functions?

LYNDIE

(READ SLIDE)

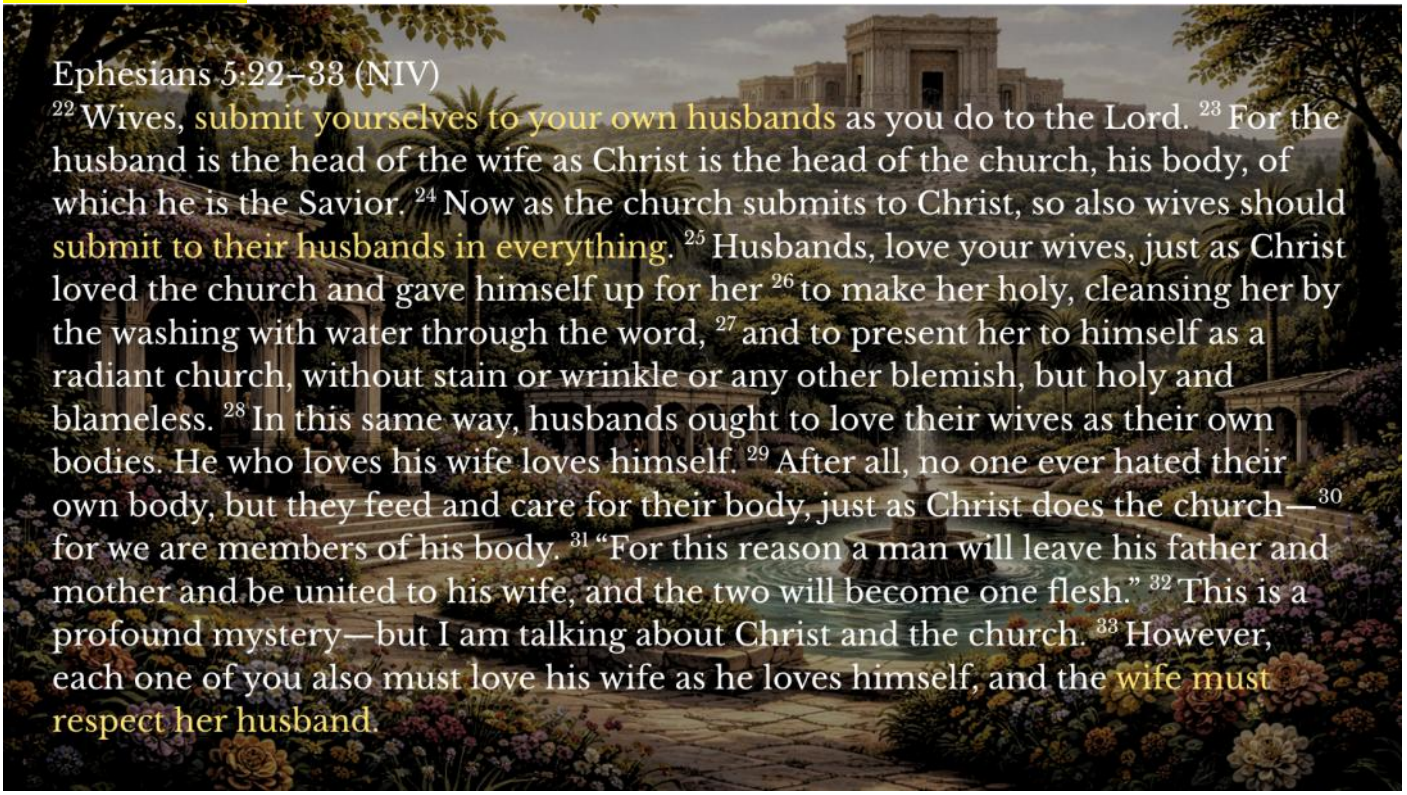


Group Activity:

- **Wives:** List all you are instructed to do in this passage.
- **Husbands:** List all you are instructed to do in this passage.

Let's begin with the wives

(DO NOT READ)

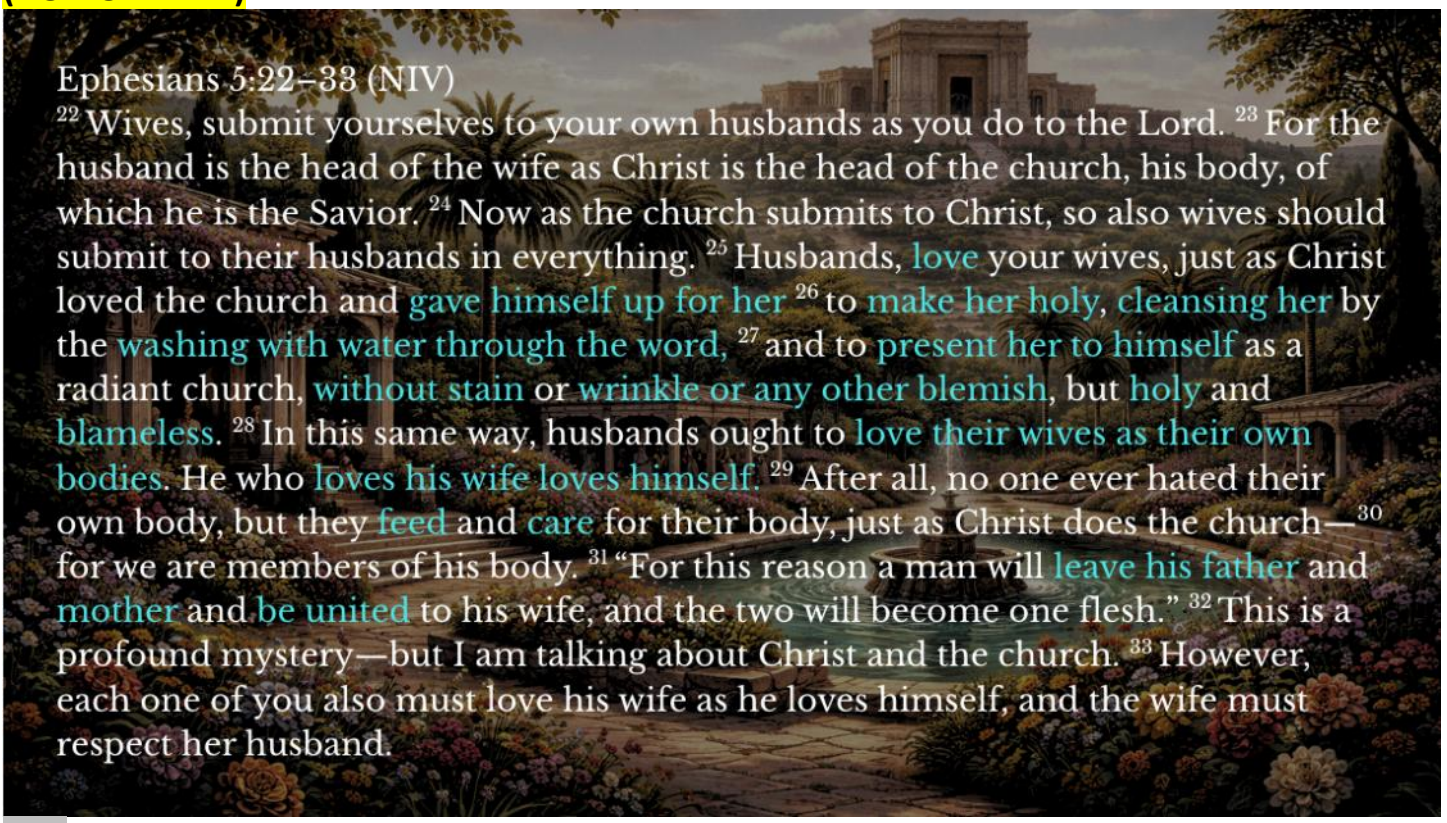


NICK

Wives, your job description is much shorter than your husbands'. From the example of Christ and the church, Christ does not obey the church—that would be stepping outside His function. Christ is the Savior and Head of the body, and the church trusts and submits. In the same way, wives learn from this example: they are to submit to and respect their husbands in everything. In doing so, they reflect the pattern God Himself laid out.

Let's move on to the husbands.

(DO NOT READ)



BEN

Husbands, your list is quite extensive compared to your wives'. Remember earlier in our teaching that we learned from the example of God and Israel that they have different functions in the relationship; their roles differ. Paul's list here in Ephesians 5 describes your role in marriage—your job description. It is derived from all that Christ does for us, the church.

Let's look at them on a slide and see all that we get to do for our spouse.



Earlier, we discussed the direction of love starting with God and flowing down into the family, eventually reaching the children. You can see by the number of responsibilities given to the husband that God both wills and desires to invest deeply in him, empowering him to fulfill all that is listed. If you are married, you are the one empowered to carry out these functions.

We are coming to a close, but before we do lets examine two essential facets to a Jewish wedding and how it relates to your marriage.

JODY

- **Exodus 32:15 (NIV)**
  15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

PETER

In the society in which Jesus was raised, a Shadkhan served as a matchmaker, arranging a covenantal union between a young groom and his prospective bride. The Shadkhan did more than introduce the couple—he helped formalize the agreement by overseeing a binding contract that clearly outlined the expectations and responsibilities of both bride and groom.

In Hebrew, this marriage covenant is called a Ketubah, and it was often written on both the front and the back to ensure clarity and prevent alteration, just like the tablets from Sinai.

You have learned that God Himself established a covenant with His people—His "Ketubah"—inscribed on tablets written on both sides, emphasizing the permanence and completeness of the agreement. In the same way, you may not realize it, but you also have a Ketubah. Your marriage covenant is not undefined or fluid; it is revealed in Scripture. Your ketubah is your Bible.

Everything we have discussed tonight is not something new we are inventing—it is what you agreed to on the day you were married. We are simply bringing that covenant into clearer understanding and fuller reality**.**

JOY

- **Numbers 15:37–41 (NIV)**
  37 The Lord said to Moses, 38 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. 39 You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord

PETER

Every Israelite man would have a garment called a *tallit.* This verse instructs Moses to have them make tassels with a blue cord on the corner of their *tallit*. As it says, these tassels were to be a continual reminder of the commands of the Lord.

It was customary in a Jewish wedding to take this *tallit*, and suspend it by its four corners to form what you know of as a *choppa*.



The husband and wife would stand underneath the *choppa* together at their wedding.



This imagery should evoke powerful symbolism when a marriage is initiated. The wife is joining the husband and both are standing under the husbands symbol of

God's commands and calling. While they are under this covering, they are protected and unified, going outside would mean leaving the protection of the marriage covenant.

When a husband and wife are protected by the commands of God as he has led the husband, there is unity and beauty that reflects the Lord's design.
NICK

Nick & Lyndie demonstrate Love Language

Homework:

Listen to LCM Sermons:

- Colt 45 Peacemaker
- After-nun Delight
- Daily use of Abigail and Nabal cards

Begin Developing Love Language:

- Husband to personalize/modernize Proverbs 31:10-31 to focus on the deeds of his wife
- Wife to personalize/modernize Song of Songs 5:10-16 to praise the physical attributes of her husband