

## Betrothal

*We gathered to bring to fulfillment the purpose the two couples, Hakam and Havah, and Malachi and Rebecca, had traveled across the country for tonight. In late afternoon they and their children, Chets Barur and Hayeh, met with Yoneq and ha-êmeq for a time in preparation for the wonderful gathering that was to follow. At one point Yoneq was looking for our “teachings” on betrothal, of which there aren’t many! The abbas were asking him (insisting really, as a man prevails on another to receive his hospitality) to teach on betrothal tonight. This is what our Father gave us in response to the need of this special moment.*

*Could we say an enduring “bond of peace” has been formed between all these families tonight? Certainly, but that “bonding” goes much further back than even Chets Barur and Hayeh having something in their hearts for one another. Read on and see how love has formed something between these four families that can never be broken.*

2 Cor 11:2 — It speaks of Paul and his relationship with the churches he started in different places. He was more or less their father in a sense. He was their spiritual father, without whom they would not have life. He wrote to them, “I betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Messiah.”

He *betrothed* or *espoused* them. Espousal has to do with adoption.<sup>1</sup> When the man proposes to the woman, and she responds, she is agreeing that she is going to be betrothed or espoused to him. In a way, she is going to be adopted by the man, who will then care for her for the rest of her life, as her parents have cared for her so far.

### **The Betrothal Period – a Time of Purity**

We are betrothed, espoused, to marry His Son. We keep our purity until then – or there will be no marriage. In the Old Testament the man could get a divorce if any evidence of uncleanness was found. We can capture this perfectly in the story of Yowceph and Miriam<sup>2</sup> (Mt 1:18-25).

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<sup>1</sup> *Espousal* — 1) A betrothal or wedding ceremony. 2) An espousing of an idea or cause; adoption; a support. *Espouse* — 1) To take in marriage; marry. 2) To give a woman in marriage. 3) To give one’s loyalty and support to; adopt. [From the Latin *spondere*, meaning to *promise solemnly*.]

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps you will want to read the story by ha-êmeq called “Yoceph, an Upright Man,” which communi-

Mt 1:18 — As one translation puts it, “she was with child through *the agency* of the Holy Spirit.” Yoceph didn’t understand until an angel came and spoke to him. Mt 1:19 — Being a righteous man, he was going to put her away privately – because a betrothal is so serious that if it is broken there has to be a divorce.

2 Cor 11:2 — We are betrothed to Him, not married yet. If we are unclean in any way, He won’t be able to marry us. Then we would have to go through a time of purification of one thousand years, suffering the very death our Master already died for us.

Chets Barur and Hayeh are going to be bonded in unity and oneness. He is going to care for her and love her, not hurt her in any way – throughout their married lives, not just on this betrothal period. We are commanded to love our wives as Messiah loved the Edah. What if we don’t do that?

The Corinthians, mostly, will not be in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It will be the same with the Edahs of Ephesus and Sardis, where only a few “walked with Him in white” – meaning only a few were *clean* from *adultery*. We have to stay clean for Him. He is certainly going to stay that way for us.

### **Interlocked Hands – the Symbol of Betrothal**

In Israel, this dictionary says, the bride and groom were treated as the King and Queen on the day of their wedding, and this is true among us as well.

Betrothal is the initial, binding step in marriage. It was so important that if war broke out a betrothed man would not go fight. Their marriage was as essential as defeating the enemy to the preservation of the nation (Dt 20:7). The couple did their part through the pure, godly children they raised.

2 Cor 11:2 — You love your bride to be so much you would not cause her to stumble in any way during the period of betrothal. You would not cause her to be un-

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cates the pain and confusion both Miriam and Yoceph felt attempting to deal with the amazing thing that had happened to her [2000.02.19-S01].

clean in any way. Betrothal means your life is interlocked with hers. That is why you interlock your hands at the betrothal.

### **The Adultery of the First Edah**

2 Cor 11:3 — “I hear that your minds have been led astray from the simplicity and purity of your devotion to Messiah.” Then comes the adultery – the communion with another spirit. “You receive it,” Paul told them, “who was not the one I preached to you.” If we receive other spirits, and if it goes through the whole Body like leaven, then we are unfit, aren’t we? Paul told them they were being deceived just as Eve was deceived.

Just remember, Satan is here, right now. There is no way he can’t be here because he is the prince and the power of the air. But if we have our armor on he can’t deceive us (Eph 6:10-18). It came to the point among them where Satan took over. 2 Cor 11:13-15 — There is a lot of transformation that goes on around him. Christians seem so good until you cross them in a certain way.

Remaining pure and chaste is how we can celebrate this wedding, and the one coming up with our Master. Mt 1:18 — Through *the agency* of the Holy Spirit, it says, a body was prepared for Him to dwell in. His Spirit came and dwelled in that child even while He was still an embryo. This is just as the Spirit comes to dwell in us, by the agency of the Holy Spirit.

Mt 1:20-21 — “...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit... and He will save His people from their sins.” Here, Hayeh is Chets Barur’s *people*. This means he is going to love and care for her the way Messiah does the Edah. Mt 1:22 — “All of this was done to fulfill what was spoken by the Sovereign through the prophet...” Why? The Holy Spirit was going to become incarnate in a man, Yahshua, just like He is in us right now – only He didn’t have to deal with fallen human nature as we do. Because of that, He was

more opposed than we are, as the evil one tried to make Him fall and tempt Him in every way possible.<sup>3</sup>

Mt 1:24-25 — That was Yoceph's marvelous character. He didn't touch his wife, or make her unclean in any way, until after our Master was born. Can you imagine him corrupting her in any way? What would have happened? We have to be the same way. Is that a high standard? Yes, it is. And we can act in a way commensurate with the gospel we have received by the grace that He gives us.

We will keep ourselves pure in the Twelve Tribes of Israel. We are going upstream against the Fall. We will eat of the Tree of life that Adam didn't eat from.

That is a little bit about betrothal. It brings security to the Bride. Eph 1:14 — That is security for her that he is going to make a promise to marry her. We are going to be kings and rulers over the whole universe. He has adopted us. We are betrothed. We are going to keep ourselves pure for Him. Then in the eternal age were going to have offspring. That is what husbands and wives do, have offspring.

Our Master says, "I will marry you." It is an espousal, an adoption. On the part of the husband it is a promise of being loyal, true, and faithful forever. And on the part of the bride, it is like the commitment of baptism. You say, "I will serve you and not falter, by your grace."

Love in the Old Testament days was generally viewed as beginning at marriage, not leading to it. Isaac and Rebecca didn't waste any time falling in love with one another, did they? They went right into that tent and consummated their marriage. They TRUSTED our Father and they TRUSTED Abraham. How do we know? Because Isaac got up on that altar.

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<sup>3</sup> This is discussed in such teachings as "Our Master had no Advantage over Us" (1996.11.16-B01): "Adam also wasn't fallen. He was just like our Master. Our Master was just like Him. Adam fell. Our Master could have fallen. Our Master faced the same temptations and overcame. That He was unfallen doesn't mean that He had any less a hard time than us. Our Master was tempted even more than we are."

## The Vows

**Hakam** – I'm really, really thankful for our Master Yahshua and the hope we have in Him. He's given us so something very wonderful: that there would actually be offspring that would take on the same spirit, the same God, and the same purpose as their parents. This is too amazing. I am really thankful for the mercy our Father has had on me to save me from the world. I came in a total blind man and He's been opening my eyes. I am also thankful that He gave Chets Barur to Mary and me. Our Father is faithful to bring us along, teach us, and save us. At the same time He has brought Chets Barur along. He's saving him. I am thankful for my friends in the body, especially Yoneq and Ha-emeq. I am very, very thankful.

I waited for this night for a really long time. I thought when Chets Barur first talked to me about Hayeh that it would be a good thing. In my heart I really wanted it to become a reality. Later on Chets Barur was full of all kinds of doubts. I went out in a field in Oak Hill and prayed for him. I asked our Father to save him and cause this relationship to become a reality. Because in my heart I really believed it was from our Father. I knew our Father heard me. I thought He would make up for our lacks so that His Spirit would prevail, so that His will could be done. He has proved himself to me in a very powerful way. Since about one year ago the eyes of Chets Barur's understanding were enlightened as to who he was, who our God is, and what salvation was for him. I have seen him progress in stability and confidence of his faith and his love for Hayeh. He told me one year ago this week, "Abba, I love her. I don't know if it's possible that she can be my wife, but I am going to stand on that." I've seen him do that. He has proved it to me. I want to make it clear that I know they are man and wife. They are meant to be together, to be married. It is from our Father that I am overjoyed to betroth Chets Barur to Hayeh tonight.

**Havah** – I feel the same way as what Hakam described. When Chets Barur was going through all those things to bring him to where he is today, Hayeh trusted Chets Barur's heart, her God, and her parents. I am really thankful for both of their endurance. They are children of the promise. Chets Barur is sure; he's sure who his wife is. (cheering) I am so thankful this day has come. I'm thrilled.

**Malachi** – I am also thankful for Chets Barur. I was waiting for Chets Barur to be really solid, to really have his trust in our Master, so that Hayeh could have the head she needed. We've had quite a measure of peace all along. But it has been confirmed more and more. I see a bright future ahead of

them. I appreciate Hayeh. She never wavered. She never got depressed. She trusted. It meant a lot to me. She is who Chets Barur needs and of course, he is who she needs. I am honored to give Hayeh to Chets Barur tonight – to betroth her to her king to come. We go a long way back, Hakam and I. Back in North Chattanooga we were the only two families living together. I love them. (Havah, too.) I am honored to be a part of their family. I appreciate Yoneq and Ha-emeq. They wanted to stay out of it, but they didn't know how to not love and be a help to us and our children. They teach us to say "NO!" to the enemy and to embrace everything pure and good.

**Rebecca** – I am thankful to our Master. He was really faithful to us. We prayed for a long time. Chets Barur was in deep waters. He didn't know what to do, but he was humble. Our Master helped him. He spoke to Chets Barur's heart. I believe he can help Hayeh because of that — he is a humble man. Hayeh needs Chets Barur. Her heart wants to support him in every way. I am thankful for this night. We have waited for a long time. I am thankful for our Master Yahshua.

**Ha-êmeq** – It's such a wonderful night. The angels are rejoicing. They are rejoicing because they want our Father's will to be done. Malachi would say, "I guess it is because we saw Hayeh born."

Most of you, because you come from large families, have seen babies born. Then, I was not going to any of the births. Yoneq and I had not seen any babies born, but our Father spoke to Malachi. He asked Yoneq and I to come see this baby be born. Rebecca modestly invited us into the room, and Yoneq saw a baby born. It was quite something. Amazing. Wonderful! Rebecca brought forth a little girl. We didn't see her again for years and years. Malachi called and said, "Yoneq and Ha-emeq, you need to come to Hayeh's Bat Mitzvah." Malachi continued to pester us to come, but we didn't.

Time passed. We went to Australia and came back. Then there was a big gathering. We saw three people up front singing. Paul Gregoire we knew, but who were these girls? Someone told us, those are Malachi's girls. Oh, that's that baby you saw born. She was just looking at her abba and trusting him. When Yoneq realized that it was Hayeh he told me, "Wait until Chets Barur sees her."

Somehow Chets Barur ended up in our lap. I lived with Chets Barur when he was seventeen. I told his imma, Mary, one of my best friends on earth, that I would help take care of her children if she wasn't there. Chets Barur had a lesson to learn – the difference between his mind and his heart

and what real love is. He was the first one – part of the First Generation. It is hard to get through something when you are the first one doing it. We're the "voice from behind," but you're the ones doing it. You're learning what it means to take on your parents' heart and what it means to love. Hollywood's interpretation of love is a lie. What you know is the truth. People will follow you around to find out what you know. My friend Mary would rejoice to see you. She longed to see her sons grow up and marry.

Do you, Chets Barur and Hayeh, have anything to say? Your hands are going to be interlocked until you are married. Malachi will put your hand into his hand, and Hakam will put your hand into hers. As your hands interlock so will your hearts.

**Chets Barur** – I am grateful for the mercy our Master's had on me. He's borne with all the struggles I've gone through getting to the bottom of a lot of mistrust and different things that have limited our Father from giving me grace. I am thankful for this day. I love Hayeh. I need her. I am thankful for Ethan. One year ago he made everything simple to me. He brought it all down to simple trust. He told me that believing is trusting and relying on our Father. It is not something of our mind. I saw that I "trusted" God, but I wouldn't let anyone tell me anything. No one could help me. I wasn't believing, so I wasn't being saved. If we can't trust our brothers and sisters then how can we trust our Father? If we don't believe them, how can we be saved? I am thankful for that, and that Malachi and Rebecca had mercy on me and gave me a second chance. I am thankful for my abba. Abba! (they hugged)

**Hayeh** – I am incredibly thankful for Chets Barur and everything he's gone through. The past two years have been really hard for me. Our Father's confirmed me and given me more confidence than I've ever had before. Since Chets Barur's turned toward me, it's amazing – it shows me how faithful our Father is in every way to give us the desire of our hearts. I need Chets Barur. I love him. I want to support him in every way. I've always known that, but it has definitely grown here in California. I really, really respect him and admire him. I want to support him in every way. He believes in our Master Yahshua that he's going to be saved and that I can be saved too. Together, on that foundation we're going to make it to the Kingdom. I can put my trust in that and put my heart in our Master. I'm so thankful. I'm just so thankful.

You are a team working together for a purpose, which is to put all of our Master's enemies under His feet. That's your iniquities, his iniquities – or you'll put them into your

children. You are a team working together. That's what you're doing. We corrupt one another by our words. Remember that.

**Malachi** – Chets Barur, I'm giving my daughter Hayeh to you because I know it is our Father's will – our wonderful Father's will.

*Malachi placed his daughter's left hand into Chets Barur's right hand. Then they each put their other hands on top of the two interlocked ones. Then the parents placed their hands with them, until there were twelve hands in one large clasp in the center of the (now) three families. We cheered and cheered.*

*(Hakam prayed in our Master Yahshua's name that He would bless this betrothal and give them all the grace they would need to bring about everything Yoneq spoke of to us tonight.)*

One thing we want you to do is to be useful. Don't limit our Father in your lives. We want you to go where He wants you to go, and do what He wants you to do, say what He wants you to say, and be what He wants you to be. And that's not just what you do, but how you do it, and not just what you say, but how you say it, even speaking to one another.