**Believe The Rapture and the 1st Century Jewish Wedding**

**The Betrothal Period**

**In the ancient Jewish wedding, this was a period of often a year that the bride and groom spent apart before the wedding.**

**The Groom, along with the father would come and bring a gift or a dowery and sign a contract with the bride’s family…and basically purchase the bride…**

## ***1. How does the betrothal period in a 1st century Jewish wedding reflect the current relationship between Christ and the church?***

**The groom proposes to the bride and offers her a cup of wine, and if she drinks it, it means she accepts and they are considered betrothed, or legally married, and then would not drink again with her until the marriage supper**

**Jesus fulfilled this with communion, sealing the covenant He made with us!**

**Matthew 26:26** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it,* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.”

27Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. 28For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (NKJV)

## ***2. What is the meaning behind Jesus offering the cup during communion, and how does this act parallel the Jewish wedding proposal?***

**The groom goes away during the betrothal period to prepare a place for the bride called the huppah, or chamber which is in the father's house**

**That is what Jesus is doing right now!**

**John 14:1** “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so,* I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. (NKJV)

***3. How does Jesus going away to prepare a place keep your heart from being troubled while going through difficult times?***

**The groom would give the bride gifts while he is away**

**This gift would be a nice gesture, but also a *reminder* of the groom’s promise to come back…to receiver her…to himself…**

***4. What gifts does Jesus give us while He is away?***

**Neither the bride nor the groom knows the day or hour that the he will come to get the bride,**

**Matthew 24:36**“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. (NKJV)

## ***5. Why do you think the timing of the groom’s return for the bride kept secret in Jewish tradition, and how does this relate to the biblical teaching that no one knows the day or hour of the rapture?***

## ***6. Discuss how the seven-day wedding feast in Jewish tradition compares to the seven-year period described in prophecy following the rapture in Daniel 9?***