

Yahweh as “Father,” & His “Messenger” as “Husband”

BBI IIC: 06

I. Yahweh’s Messenger was ...

- A. ... the “Image of the Invisible God,” the “Messenger of the Covenant” (BBI 2C #1)
- B. ... “the Mighty One of Jacob,” implementing the Abrahamic Covenant (BBI 2C #2)
- C. ... Yahweh’s “Presence/Face” that brought Israel out of Egypt & gave the Law (BBI 2C #3)
- D. ... the “Begotten Son” who delivered Hezekiah’s Kingdom from the Assyrians (BBI 2C #4)
- E. ... the “Outstretched Arm” of Yahweh, identified by Isaiah as Jesus (BBI 2C #5)

II. Yahweh’s Messenger as the “Husband” of Zion, City of God, with her children

A. The whole Bible is the story of Yahweh’s arranging the **MARRIAGE** and the shared **INHERITANCE** of His only-begotten Son (Jesus’ parable in Matt. 22:1-14).

B. The Abrahamic Covenant is the PROMISE of the final outcome of this arrangement.

C. At Mt. Sinai the Son (Yahweh’s Messenger) entered into the **1st Betrothal Contract** with Israel, who shepherded Israel as a betrothed “husband.”

1. Jer. 31:31-33 (NKJV) 31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- 32 not according to **the covenant** that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, **My covenant** which they broke, though **I WAS A HUSBAND TO THEM**, says the LORD. 33 But this is **the covenant** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

D. Israel was continually unfaithful to her betrothed Husband

1. Jer. 3:12-15 (NKJV) 12 “Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: ‘Return, backsliding Israel,’ says the LORD; ‘I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,’ says the LORD; ‘I will not remain angry forever. 13 Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,’ says the LORD. 14 ‘Return, O backsliding children,’ says the LORD; **FOR I AM MARRIED TO YOU**. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. 15 And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”

E. The **DIVORCE** from Israel

1. Hosea 2:2-4 (NKJV) 2 "**Bring charges** against your mother, bring charges; For **she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband!** Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, And her adulteries from between her breasts; 3 Lest I strip her naked And expose her, as in the day she was born, And make her like a wilderness, And set her like a dry land, And slay her with thirst. 4 "I will not have mercy on her children, For they are the children of harlotry.

2. Isaiah 50:1 (NKJV) Thus says the LORD: "Where is the certificate of your mother's **DIVORCE, Whom I have PUT AWAY?** Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? For your iniquities you have sold yourselves, And for your transgressions your mother has been **PUT AWAY.**"

F. The same WOMAN who was divorced will be remarried to the same HUSBAND.

1. Isaiah 54:4-13 (NKJV) 4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. 5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. 6 For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, **Like a youthful wife when you were refused,** Says your God. 7 "**For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.** 8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer. 9 For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. 10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you. 11 O you afflicted one, Tossed with tempest, and not comforted, Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, And lay your foundations with sapphires. 12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And all your walls of precious stones. 13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children.

III. New Testament applies these prophecies to Christ & the New Jerusalem, both the WIFE and the GROOM are the SAME entities, with Gentiles added to the WIFE.

A. In Hebrews 8, Paul quoted Jer. 31:31-34, applying the canceling of the Old engagement "Covenant" and the New engagement "Covenant" to Jewish Christians.

B. In Rom. 9:22-26, Paul quoted from Hosea 1-2 which speaks of the divorce and remarriage of Jerusalem/Israel, applying the re-betrothal to the same Groom to both Jew and Gentile Christians.

1. Rom. 9:24 (NKJV) 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 As He says also in Hosea: "**I will call them 'My people,' who were not My people, And HER 'BELOVED,' WHO WAS NOT BELOVED.**" [quoting Hosea 2:23]

26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." [quoting Hosea 1:10]

a. Hosea continues in 2:19-20 (NKJV) 19 "**I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me** In righteousness and justice, In loving kindness and mercy; 20 **I will betroth you to Me** in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD."

C. In Galatians 4, Paul quoted from Isaiah 54 concerning Jerusalem's re-marriage, applying it to Christians.

1. Gal. 4:22-31 (NKJV) 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar -- 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children -- 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is written: "**Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.**" 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

2. After the quote from Isaiah 54:1, Isaiah went on to say: "4 Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. 5 **For your Maker is your husband,** The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. 6 For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God. 7 "**For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.** 8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.

D. In Romans 7, Paul uses the marriage laws of the Mosaic Covenant to illustrate how the OLD marriage agreement is broken, and a NEW marriage agreement takes its place.

1. Romans 7:1-4 (LGV) 1 Or are you ignorant, brothers, (for I am speaking to those who know the Law), that the Law dominates the person as long as they live? 2 For the married woman has been bound to the living husband with a law. Yet, if the husband should die, she has been released from the law of the husband. 3 Consequently then, she will be called an adulteress of the living man if she should become [wife] to another man. Yet, should the husband die she is free from the law of the [husband] to be no adulteress [when] becoming [wife] to a different man. 4 Similarly my brothers, you also became dead to the Law **through the body of Christ**, for you to become [joined] with another [Law] 35 **to the One aroused from among the dead** – so that we should be bearing fruit to God.”

E. Paul indicates that Christians collectively are “betrothed” to Christ.

1. 2 Cor. 11:2-3 (NKJV) 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

F. The conclusion of the betrothal period and consummation of the wedding occurs when Christ returns.

1. Rev. 19:6-9 (NKJV) 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, 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!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

G. The WIFE is Jerusalem Restored with her inhabitants

1. Rev. 21:9-14 (NKJV) 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

IV. If the "HUSBAND" to whom Israel was God the Father, then in the BRIDE'S renewal, **the Son of God takes His Father's divorced wife as His own wife**. This was forbidden in both the OT and the NT.

A. *"The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness."* (Lev. 18:8)

B. *"The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."* (Lev. 20:11)

C. *"A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's bed."* (Deut. 22:30)

D. *"Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed."* (Deut. 27:20)

E. *"... A man and his father go in to the same girl, To defile My holy name."* (Amos 2:7)

F. *"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles – that a man has his father's wife!"* (1 Cor. 5:1)