



Marriage's True Meaning

Song of Songs; Genesis, Exodus, Ephesians

SHE: Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?
⁷ Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel,
⁸ all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.⁹ King Solomon made for himself the carriage; he made it of wood from Lebanon.¹⁰ Its posts he made of silver, its base of gold. Its seat was upholstered with purple, its interior inlaid with love. Daughters of Jerusalem,¹¹ come out, and look, you daughters of Zion. Look on King Solomon wearing a crown, the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, the day his heart rejoiced. Song of Songs 3:6-11

1. In the beginning there is a wedding.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found.²¹ So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Genesis 2:20-22

"he brought her to the man", can be understood the bride being brought to the groom by her father.

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. Genesis 2:23,24

Have we had any mention of wife up to this point? No.
So the idea is that the Bible opens with a marriage, is actually very likely.

2. God uses marriage terms and imagery to describe his relationship to his people.

Hebrew Marital terms:

- The Hebrew word "laqach" means- "*take to marry.*"

⁷ I will take (*laqach*) you as my own people, and I will be your God. Exodus 6:7

- The Hebrew word "cegulla" means- "*treasured possession*"

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. (*cegulla*) Exodus 19:5

Hebrew Marital Imagery:

- The "thick cloud" means- "*God's presence*"

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, Exodus 19:16

Today at Jewish weddings they still will get married under a "*huppah*" which symbolizes God's presence at their union.

- The "ketubah" is written agreement that stipulated the expectations and the responsibilities of the groom to the bride.

What was God's "ketubah" for Israel?

And God spoke all these words, ²"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³"You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:1-3

- God's people were unfaithful to him

During the reign of King Josiah, the Lord said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. ⁷ I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. ⁸ I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries.

Jeremiah 3:6-8

God calls a prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute Gomer and be faithful to her even though she remained unfaithful to him, as a picture of God's faithfulness to unfaithful Israel.

"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. ¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards, ... ¹⁶ "In that day," declares the Lord "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.

Hosea 2:14-15a-16

- Even Jesus used this language in the New Testament

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:1-3

A young Jewish man would say to a young Jewish woman once the betrothal ceremony was completed, "*I go to prepare a place for you.*"

3. Apostle Paul uses a NT passage to demonstrate that the point of marriage in the Bible is never just marriage.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:25-32

The point of marriage is two people, who chose each other over and over, even though they know all about the other person's faults, so that they would become a living picture of the Gospel of Jesus.

So what a marriage turns out to be in scripture is a man who would give of himself sacrificially and a woman would receive that love and reciprocate. And that picture, turns out to be one of the best witnesses to the world the truth of the gospel.

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