

ARE YOU BETROTHED?

– Kumaru Nadesan

The Jewish marriage occurs in two distinct stages, betrothal 'Kiddushin' followed by 'Nissuin', the marriage itself. In the interval between the betrothal and the marriage, which last for one year, the bride would spend her time in preparation and purification. She wore a veil whenever she went out in public, intimating that she was betrothed. She was thus considered being purchased by the bridegroom with a bride-price, and stood consecrated to her groom.

Then on, the young bride lived in anticipation of the imminent return of her beloved bridegroom. She does not know when he would return, so she kept a constant vigil. Every night she lit an oil lamp and placed in a conspicuous place before retiring to bed.

The Hebrew word 'Nissuin', means 'to take', or 'to abduct'. The idea was to literally steal his bride away from the house, which added thrill to the occasion. All Jewish brides longed to be stolen away by her prince.

The Lord Jesus Christ has already paid the bride-price, His precious blood shed on the cross. When God looked down on earth, He saw man in his fallen, ruined, sinful

state heading for the unquenchable fire in hell. God therefore sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ into this world two thousand years ago to redeem man from his fallen state. Jesus offered Himself on the cross as a propitiation for your sins. He was buried, but He rose again on the third day. Then He ascended to heaven. He has gone to prepare a place for all those who trust in Him for their salvation. He promised to come back to take His redeemed to the mansions on high above.

Those who have repented (turned away from their sins and confessed them) and put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are betrothed to Christ. Jesus will come soon to snatch away His betrothed Bride. This event will take place at a time when we least expect it. For this reason, He instructs us to be always ready and prepared, as his coming is near! He will appear any day, any moment!

Dear reader! Are you betrothed to Christ? If not, repent for your sins, confess them and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Lord right now and become His betrothed who can be sure of a place with Him all eternity.