

## **Kol Simcha – a Bride Unveiled**

*I, Yeshua your Lord, take you, Kehilat Kol Simcha, to be my lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness & in health, for all eternity.*

When our Jewish people in *Parashat Yitro* were offered the opportunity to become a “*My own treasure (peculiar treasure or am segulah), a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation*” (Ex. 19:5-6), the response by all of Israel was “<sup>8</sup>*Everything יהוה has spoken, we will do (kol asher-diber Adonai naase)*”. Our people intended to obey when it came to doing what *Adonai* had said. The generation of our people that left Egypt was willing to obey their new Master, without reservation. This is always true at any wedding – the unveiled bride is ready to honor, cherish, love and obey her husband-to-be! This commitment is one that must also be in our innermost being still today. Will we in implicitly obey whatsoever He asks us to do?

### **Loving the Lord Means Keeping His Commandments.**

*Yeshua* said, “<sup>15</sup>*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments*” (John 14:15). He gave three promises to everyone who will do this: “<sup>21</sup>*He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me. He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him*” (John 14:21). Anyone who is loved by the Father and by His Son *Yeshua*, and who has had the Messiah made known to him will have a special ability to give wise and insightful testimony and counsel to others. All words of wisdom, as well as all the things that happen to us, are related to the goal of knowing Him and being conformed to His image (See Ro. 8:28-29).

### **Keeping His Commandments Means Loving Others.**

Since God has so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16), surely we must also love one another. Loving those who love us back is easy, but loving the world with all of its problems is hard. When we take inventory of the Ten Commandments spoken by *Adonai* in Exodus 20, we realize how many of those have to do with others – relating to the world around us: “<sup>20</sup>*If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar. For the one who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.* <sup>21</sup>*And this commandment we have from Him: that the one who loves God should also love his brother*” (1 John 4:20-21). Those who receive our words must be convinced that we are speaking out of a heart of genuine love. They will be able to discern this only if we love the Lord with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength. It is on the basis of loving God that we do things for others, because *Yeshua* said: ‘...*Amen, I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me*’ (Matthew 25:40b).

### **Keeping His Commandments Produces Light in Our Eyes.**

The whole purpose of testifying or giving godly counsel is providing light for others to follow. Without the light of God's truth, people stumble in the darkness. (Prov. 4:18-19.) We are to be the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). *Yeshua* explained precisely how to be that light in Matt. 6:22: “*The eye is the lamp of the body...*” We are to let the ‘*light of our eyes so shine before men that they will see the good works that we do for them and glorify our Father Who is in Heaven*’ (Matt. 5:16). Having the Light of Messiah in our eyes is also a vital means of discerning the motives of people. Those who want the truth will come to the light, while those who are evil will stay away from the light so they are not exposed (John 3:20-21).

People who are eager for life-changing results will be open to one who radiates God's love and the light of truth. The relationship between the commandments and the light in our eyes is given in Ps. 19: “<sup>8</sup>*The mitzvot of Adonai are pure, giving light to the eyes.*” When we witness to someone with light in our eyes, it causes their heart to rejoice since “*Bright eyes bring joy to the heart...*” (Prov. 15:30a) At the conclusion of *Adonai* speaking in Ex. 24 our people added another word to their response: *VeNishma* (Ex. 24:7). We will *Sh'ma!* Shabbat Shalom!