

# The Year of the Bride

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IN JEWISH WEDDINGS, it is customary for the bride to circle the groom seven times before the ceremony begins.

There are various explanations given for this tradition.

Some say the bride circles the groom to create a magical wall of protection from evil spirits, temptation, and the glances of other women.

Others believe that the bride walks around the groom to bring down any walls or barriers that may separate the couple, an allusion to the Israelites circling Jericho seven times before the walls tumbled down (Josh. 6).

Yet another explanation is that the seven circuits of the bride reference the seven rotations of earth on its axis during creation week, the time of the original wedding of Adam and Eve.

Expanding on the last theory, an explanation I have not seen given, but which is plausible, is that the bride's seven circuits around the groom signify a larger division of time, a seven-year period, or Sabbatical "week" (Lev. 25:1–4; Dan. 9:24–27).

## PARALLELS

In the Jewish wedding tradition, before vows are exchanged, the bride circles the groom seven times in a counterclockwise direction under the wedding canopy.

Employing biblical symbolism, we find a parallel in the astronomical realm:

The heavens represent the wedding canopy (Isa. 40:22; Ps. 104:2).

The Sun, at the center of the Solar System, symbolizes Jesus the Bridegroom (Ps. 19:5; 84:11).

The Earth and Moon, which together orbit the Sun in a counterclockwise direction, represent the Bride.

Seven circuits of the 'Bride' around the 'Groom' amount to seven years, or one Sabbatical week.

Thus, the year after the seventh, the post-Sabbatical year, becomes the year of the bride, the time of exchanging vows.

We find this same pattern in Scripture:

- The ‘marriage’ of Israel to God at Sinai occurred on Pentecost, the day after the Sabbath (Lev. 23:15, 16; Ex. 19).
- The ‘betrothal’ of the Church to God occurred on Pentecost, the day after the Sabbath (Acts 2).
- Jacob, later named Israel, married Leah and Rachel after the seventh year (Gen. 29:14–30).

#### POST-SABBATICAL 2022

Viewing the post-Sabbatical year as the year of the bride, it is significant that, as of Nisan–April 2022, we are in a post-Sabbatical year. Moreover, signs associated with previous post-Sabbatical years suggest the current one may be pivotal. For instance, in post-Sabbatical year 2015 we saw . . .

- A total solar eclipse on Nisan 1, the day marking the start of the Sabbatical week.
- Consecutive blood-moon eclipses on the harvest festivals Passover and Tabernacles.
- A partial solar eclipse on the Feast of Trumpets.
- The reappearance of Bethlehem-Star conjunction that heralded Jesus’ first coming (June 30).

Additionally . . .

- Sabbatical year 2014–15 saw the birth of two cows with distinct number “7s” on their heads, echoing pharaoh’s dream-warning about a famine beginning after seven years (Gen. 41).
- Sabbatical year 2014–15 saw the release of bestselling books that shone a spotlight on the significance of the Sabbatical cycle: “The Mystery of the Shemitah” by Johnathan Cahn, “Blood Moons” By Pastor Mark Biltz, and others.

Since God reckons time in seven-year increments, or Sabbatical weeks, the signs of 2015 seem to be pointing to 2022.

But there is more. Counting backward seven Sabbatical weeks from 2022, we arrive at the restoration of Jerusalem in 1967. This is significant because in Daniel’s Weeks Prophecy, where God’s plan of

redemption is measured in Sabbatical weeks, Messiah appears “seven weeks” after Jerusalem is restored:

“From the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an Anointed One [Messiah], there shall be seven weeks” (Dan. 9:25).

Assuming the above verse relates to Messiah’s return, and there is reason to believe that it does (see note 11), the formula for calculating the timing is simple:

1967 restoration + seven weeks = 2022

#### PAST PRECEDENT

Looking back to the Lord’s first advent, it is significant that events related to His appearance occur in post-Sabbatical years:

- The Bethlehem Star announcing Jesus’ birth appeared in 2 BC, a post-Sabbatical year.
- Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit, thus becoming the Anointed One, or Messiah, in 27 AD, a post-Sabbatical year.

God is consistent (Heb. 13:8). If events related to Messiah’s first appearance occurred in post-Sabbatical years, it is reasonable to expect the same at His return. Needless to say, this is a thrilling prospect to consider in post-Sabbatical year 2022. Could this “year of the bride” see the ultimate wedding, the marriage of Messiah to the Church at the Rapture?

Concerning the Lord’s timing, it is important to keep in mind that while there is a biblical precedent for revealing the *year* of Messiah’s advent, there is ambiguity around the *day*. The key dates related to Jesus’ first appearance (excluding His death and resurrection) are His birth and anointing as Messiah. However, the dates of these events are not noted in Scripture. If this pattern holds, the Lord may return on a day unknown (Matt. 24:42–44; 1 Thess. 5:1, 2; Mark 13:35–37).

An unknown wedding date harmonizes with the Jewish tradition in which the bride knew generally when the groom would appear, during the season of the earlier betrothal, but not the day or hour. Therefore, during this post-Sabbatical year of the bride, it is wise to be dressed and ready should the cry suddenly ring out:

“Look, the bridegroom is here! Come out to meet him!” (Matt. 25:6).

## NOTES:

### 1. Bride circling tradition:

[https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/4191420/jewish/Why-Does-the-Bride-Circle-the-Groom-Seven-Times.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/4191420/jewish/Why-Does-the-Bride-Circle-the-Groom-Seven-Times.htm)

<http://www.jewish-history.com/minhag.htm>

2. Since the Sun symbolizes Jesus the Bridegroom, the Moon, the Sun's heavenly counterpart, represents the Bride, or Church. The Moon is emblematic of the Church as it has no light of its own. It relies entirely upon the Sun for its light (Ps. 19:4, 5; 84:11). Similarly, man has no light of his own. We were created in the image of God to reflect His brilliance and glory (Gen. 1:27). When we turn to face the majesty of God, when we surrender to Him and seek Him with all our hearts, we reflect His glory, just like the Moon reflects the glory of the Sun (Matt. 5:14).

### 3. Sabbatical years:

1916–17

1923–24

1930–31

1937–38

1944–45

1951–52

1958–59

1965–66

1972–73

1979–80

1986–87

1993–94

2000–01

2007–08

### 4. More on Sabbatical Years:

<http://www.pickle-publishing.com/papers/sabbatical-years.htm>

<http://www.pickle-publishing.com/papers/sabbatical-years-more.htm>

<http://www.pickle-publishing.com/papers/sabbatical-years-table.htm>

5. Sabbatical-cycle corroboration: Counting backward seven-year periods from Sabbatical year 2021–22, we find that 26–27 AD and 458–57 BC were Sabbatical years. This is remarkable because 457 BC is when Daniel's Weeks Prophecy began to be fulfilled via the Jews' return to Jerusalem from Babylon. Thus, the Sabbatical cycle observed in Israel today, and referenced in this study, corresponds to the popular interpretation of Daniel 9:25, which has the "seven" and "sixty-two" weeks (483 years) beginning in 457 BC and ending in 27 AD with Jesus' anointing as Messiah.

6. On Nisan 1, 2015, a total solar eclipse darkened the northernmost tip of the globe, the point where the longitudinal lines intersecting every nation and landmass converge. Besides occurring on the biblical New Year, the Nisan 1 eclipse coincided with the spring equinox. For perspective, a total solar eclipse occurs on the spring equinox only one other time during the roughly 750-year period spanning 1662 AD to 2406 AD. Such an eclipse at the top of the globe, however, is said to happen only once every 100,000 years, making the 2015 occurrence unprecedented.

7. Biblical years begin at Nisan, the “first month” (Ex. 12:1, 2). Despite God’s plain instruction to count the years from Nisan, the deep-rooted rabbinic tradition of counting years from the seventh month, Tishrei, means Sabbatical years are said to begin and end in the fall. While it is true that the seventh month is pivotal, marking the end of the festival season, the time of debt forgiveness, and the early rains that prepare the ground for the impending “agricultural year,” it is the month of Nisan, according to the Creator of the calendar, which marks the start of the actual year.

8. Bethlehem-Star (Jupiter–Venus) conjunction of 2015: While Jupiter–Venus conjunctions are not uncommon, the one on June 30, 2015, was unique for multiple reasons. First, it occurred amid a slew of other heavenly signs, including solar and lunar eclipses on the biblical harvest festivals and New Year. Second, it mirrored a similarly brilliant triple conjunction of the two planets around the time of Jesus’ birth, in 3–2 BC. Third, like the conjunction in 3–2 BC, it occurred in June, in the constellation Leo, the sign depicting King Jesus, the “Lion of the tribe of Judah.” Fourth, like the conjunction in 3–2 BC, it occurred in a post-Sabbatical year. Since both conjunctions took place in a post-Sabbatical year, they are separated by a span of exactly 288 Sabbatical weeks. This is significant as 288 is the totient function of 888, the numerical value of Jesus’ name. Also, there are 288 days in an average pregnancy term, which is interesting in view of the Star’s association with Jesus’ birth.

[https://www.al.com/living/2015/06/is\\_this\\_what\\_the\\_star\\_of\\_bethl.html](https://www.al.com/living/2015/06/is_this_what_the_star_of_bethl.html)

<http://heavensspeak.blogspot.com/2010/01/leo-king-rending.html> <https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/888.html>

9. Cow signs of 2014–15: <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/4f686c9a5c91453ea69f10df85462afc/Cow%20Harbingers%20and%20the%20Coming%20Fod%20Crisis.pdf>

10. The God of the Bible typically gives a seven-day or seven-year warning:

- Noah was told to board the Ark seven days before the Flood began (Gen. 7:1–4).
- The Israelites circled Jericho for seven days, blasting seven trumpets, before the city was judged (Josh. 6:1–5).
- Pharaoh was warned in a dream of seven healthy cows and seven sickly cows that a famine would begin after seven years (Gen. 41)

11. The only modern restoration of Jerusalem occurred in June 1967. Counting seven weeks from the start of the first Sabbatical week after 1967, which is Nisan 1973, we arrive at Nisan 2022. For more on the modern restoration of Jerusalem and Daniel's seven weeks, see the following studies:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/a0ea26efd60c45ec83fce69a4d6e75cc/Jubilee%20Q%20and%20A%20-%20Is%20the%20Year%20of%20Redemption%20Upon%20Us%20-%20rev%20a.pdf)

[35306783/documents/a0ea26efd60c45ec83fce69a4d6e75cc/Jubilee%20Q%20and%20A%20-%20Is%20the%20Year%20of%20Redemption%20Upon%20Us%20-%20rev%20a.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/a0ea26efd60c45ec83fce69a4d6e75cc/Jubilee%20Q%20and%20A%20-%20Is%20the%20Year%20of%20Redemption%20Upon%20Us%20-%20rev%20a.pdf)

[https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/cb70bb03e20748bb902db7db41466f53/Calculating%20Daniels%20Jubilee%20-%202022%20rev%20d.pdf)

[35306783/documents/cb70bb03e20748bb902db7db41466f53/Calculating%20Daniels%20Jubilee%20-%202022%20rev%20d.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/cb70bb03e20748bb902db7db41466f53/Calculating%20Daniels%20Jubilee%20-%202022%20rev%20d.pdf)

12. At Jesus' baptism, He was anointed with the Holy Spirit who descended upon Him in the form of a dove (Luke 3:21, 22; Acts 10:38). Since the Hebrew word for "Messiah" and the Greek word for "Christ" both mean "Anointed One," it is logical to identify the first coming of Messiah in Daniel 9:25 with Jesus' anointing by the Holy Spirit.

13. More examples of events that have occurred in post-Sabbatical years (years reckoned from Nisan):

- Post-Sabbatical year 27-28 AD: Jesus baptized Messiah.
- Post-Sabbatical Year 685-86: Construction begins on the Islamic Dome of the Rock, an "abomination that causes desolation" on the Temple Mount.
- Post-Sabbatical Year 692-93: Dome of the Rock construction ends.
- Post Sabbatical Year 1917-18: Collapse of the Ottoman Empire and Balfour Declaration pave the way for the Jews' return to the Land. Also, the deadliest pandemic in modern times, the Spanish flu, begins in the US.
- Post Sabbatical Year 1938-39: World War 2 begins. (While the Second World War technically began in September 1939, Hitler's regional aggression and seizure of Europe began in spring 1938 with the annexation of Austria. Hitler's seven-year reign of terror ended with his suicide and the fall of the Third Reich in spring 1945).
- Post Sabbatical Year 1945-46: World War 2 and Holocaust end.
- Post-Sabbatical Year 1973-74: Israel's Yom Kippur War; Arab Oil Embargo and Energy Crisis; abortion legalized nationwide in US; Twin Towers (World Trade Center) completed and dedicated.
- Post-Sabbatical Year 2001-02: Terrorist attacks of 9/11 (Twin Towers fall), and historic stock market crash.
- Post-Sabbatical Year 2008-09: Global Financial Crisis. Significantly, the crisis began with the collapse of Bear Sterns in March 2008, the start of the post-Sabbatical year, and culminated in a Dow low in March 2009, the end of the post-Sabbatical year.

- Post-Sabbatical Year 2015–16: Unprecedented display of signs in the heavens, including solar and lunar eclipses on significant biblical calendar dates, and Bethlehem-Star conjunction.

14. Coincidentally, secular media have dubbed 2022 “the year of the wedding” as it is projected to be a record year for nuptials. Due to the pandemic, the last couple of years have seen a sharp decline in couples walking down the aisle. However, according to groups that specialize in marriage statistics, 2022 is set to see an explosion of wedding ceremonies before numbers normalize again in 2023.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220517-covid-cut-2020-us-wedding-numbers-to-lowest-since-1963>

<https://www.cbs58.com/news/2022-is-being-called-the-year-of-the-wedding-as-a-record-number-of-couples-tie-the-knot>

<https://news.yahoo.com/2022-could-be-the-biggest-year-in-the-wedding-industry-211031020.html>

15. Coincidentally, June 2022 saw an ultra-rare ‘wedding procession’ in the heavens, culminating on the seven-year anniversary of the recent Bethlehem-Star conjunction.

[https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/63d710e3f83a40f69180e191c38735cf/June%20Planetary%20Parade%20-%20More%20Than%20an%20Astronomical%20Alignment.pdf)

[35306783/documents/63d710e3f83a40f69180e191c38735cf/June%20Planetary%20Parade%20-](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/63d710e3f83a40f69180e191c38735cf/June%20Planetary%20Parade%20-%20More%20Than%20an%20Astronomical%20Alignment.pdf)

[%20More%20Than%20an%20Astronomical%20Alignment.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-35306783/documents/63d710e3f83a40f69180e191c38735cf/June%20Planetary%20Parade%20-%20More%20Than%20an%20Astronomical%20Alignment.pdf)

16. Where God is concerned, there are no coincidences (Prov. 16:33).