

Bride and Bridegroom #1
The Bridal View of the Kingdom!

I. An Overall Perspective of the Kingdom and the Bridal Picture!

A. God's ultimate and eternal purpose for creation is to provide a family that includes faithful children for Himself and an equally yoked Bride for Jesus as His eternal companion. God promised to give Jesus an inheritance consisting of a people whom He fully possesses in love.

Psa 2:8 I (the Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

1. Mandatory obedience: God will cause all creation to obey Jesus! (**Psa 110:1,2; Rev 19:15; Phil. 2:9-11**)

2. Voluntary love: God will raise up people who voluntarily choose to love Him! (**Mt 22:37; Lk 1:3; Acts 1:1**)

B. Equally yoked as a bride in love with the Bridegroom, God wants us to love Him with all of our heart and mind because He loves us with all of His heart and mind. Jesus wants us to love Him in the way He loves us. This summing up of the whole law in the "Great Commandment" is found in the context of the wedding parable with an end time application!

Matthew 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son..."

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment.

C. Jesus referred to Himself as a Bridegroom and the apostles as Friends of the Bridegroom (Mt. 9:15), His Kingdom as a marriage (Mt. 22:2) and the New Jerusalem as the Bride (Rev. 21:9).

1. The forerunner wedding participants, pursuing and preparing.

Matthew 9:14-15 Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but Your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

2. The Kingdom as an arranged marriage.

Matthew 22:2-14 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son..."

3. The New Jerusalem as a fully prepared wife and bride.

Revelation 21:9 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."

D. As our beloved husband, Jesus, loves us as His bride and has given Himself for us and is now preparing us for presentation to Himself as glorious. He is not only preparing us for Himself in this way, He is also preparing for us a worthy place in which to be with Him (John 14:2,3).

Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

E. God's purpose is to select and train a Bride who would be prepared by voluntary love to reign with Jesus. The First Commandment will be the primary priority within the Church when Jesus returns.

Revelation 19:7 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."

1 John 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

F. Jesus called Israel to the First Commandment in context to the parable of the wedding feast. In this He reveals the bridal paradigm (point of view or perspective) of the Kingdom. The Father's eternal plan is to arrange a marriage for His Son. Our relationship with Jesus is a marriage. In other words, we are invited to the unique privilege of experiencing intimacy with His heart, which begins now and grows for eternity.

Revelation 19:9 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. God's eternal redeeming purpose for His creation is to provide a family for Himself and an equally yoked Bride for His Son as His eternal companion who will reign with Him in love. God is now (and has been) raising up a prepared Bride for His worthy Son. In our resurrected state with Him it seems that our garments will proclaim the measure of our love as seen as acts of righteous obedience.

Revelation 19:8 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.

H. Israel is God's bride and is in covenant relationship and He is a God that doesn't have divorce as an option (Mal 2:11,16). He is a covenant-keeping God, He is faithful! Even with a treacherous bride as during Israel's times of rebellion and blindness He has a sovereign plan for grafting together the complete body of Yashua and restoring His eternal bride.

Ezekiel 16:8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God.

Jeremiah 3:14-15 "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. 20 Surely, as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so have you dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel," says the Lord.

Malachi 2:11,16 Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has profaned the Lord's holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god. 16 "For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce, for it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."

Isaiah 62:4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah (My delight is in her), and your land Beulah (married); For the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

I. As in the parable of the labors in the vineyard we as those that have been invited to work (the times of the gentiles) must expect that the remnant of Israel will be called in at the eleventh hour and the last will be first according to the faithful goodness of the Lord! (Mt 20:1-16)

Hosea 2:19-23 "I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the Lord. 21 "It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer," says the Lord; "I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth. 22 The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, and with oil; they shall answer Jezreel ("God will sow"). 23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' and they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

Hosea 3:4-5 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.