

A Bridal View of the Gospel of the Kingdom!

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

Ephesians 2:11-19;

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith

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 the whole law in the "Great Commandment" is found in the context of this wedding parable with an intensified end time application!

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. 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 perfect eternal place in which to be with Him forever.

1. A Prepared People

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.

2. A Prepared Place

John 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Rev 21:2-3, 9

It is called the "Holy City" as it is "set apart" for God as His unique habitation and possession!

It is called the "New Jerusalem" as it is linked to all the prophetic promises for Jerusalem and God's people!

It is called the "Great City" because it is called great by those who weigh greatness by a heavenly standard!

It is called the "Eternal City" as it is forever and ever, and ever, and ever...

D. Uniquely sanctified (set apart for Jesus by Jesus) and cleansed by the Word (applied personally by Jesus to the bride) we are the beloved of God and therefore are hated by Lucifer who for now masquerades as an angel of light ruling in rebellion for a short time as the "god of this world!"

Psalms 8:2, 5 Out of the mouth of babes (Mt 11:25) and nursing infants You have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger... 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-19

1 Cor 6:3; Rev 3:21; Eph 3:8-12

E. This message of the eternal "Bridal Partnership" is certainly a vital element of the "good news" of the gospel of God. Its purpose is to select and train a Bride who would be prepared by voluntary love to reign with Jesus. The First Commandment will be in first place in the Church when Jesus returns.

1 Corinthians 2:6-12 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Hebrews 2:1-18 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away...

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."