

Bride and Bridegroom #3
Key Kingdom Events!

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 (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.

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 of 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 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.

D. 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 in first place in 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."

II. An Overview of Israel as Priesthood and Bride!

A. Inherent within God's covenant with Abram is the reality that through his descendents all families of the earth would be either blessed or cursed!

Genesis 12:2-3 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

B. The continuing plan of God to rise up a people for Himself in the earth as a testimony with a purpose is seen as the nation of Israel was preparing to enter the land given to them by God Himself.

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Deuteronomy 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."

Lev 20:24 But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

C. In numerous places Israel is identified as 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 faithful and a covenant-keeping God.

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.

D. Even during Israel's times of rebellion and blindness He has always had a sovereign plan for grafting together the complete body of Yashua and restoring His eternal bride.

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.

E. 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. We as gentiles have been grafted into the family of God and the promises to Abram and through the blood of Jesus are made new in the "one new man!"

Ephesians 2:11-13 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-18 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. 19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

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.

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. 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.

H. We live in a unique time when God is fulfilling His purpose to gather from the nations a people for Himself and will amazingly bring all of Israel into a saving knowledge of their Messiah and King!

Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Rom 11:25-29 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

III. This Parable is set in the Context of Jesus' last or Passion week on Earth!

A. Jesus' much anticipated ride into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill the famous messianic prophecy in Zech. 9:9 set the tone for His teaching throughout all of Mt. 21-25 in which He emphasized the End-Times. His next

visit to Jerusalem will be on a white horse as the King of Kings (Rev. 19:16). Obviously, we live between these two triumphal entries by Jesus into Jerusalem!

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Revelation 19:11,16 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength? — "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

B. In the triumphal entry the people of Israel (multitudes of them) were crying out a much anticipated messianic welcome of expectation from Psalm 118:25-26 which is quoted in the shouts of the people as they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem.

Psalms 118:25-26 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

Matthew 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

C. In the last verse of chapter 23 of Matthew, as Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because as a whole the Jews of His day were at that time missing the "day of their visitation," He states that they will not see Him again until the day when they say as a whole "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!" Obviously, we live between these two days of visitation and these two welcomes into Jerusalem by the Jewish people of their Messiah and ours.

Matthew 23:39 ...for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

D. Looking at this very important passage (Mt 21-25) we see the layout which forms the context and run up to this particular parable as we follow Jesus in the scripture through these important events:

(John 11:45-12-12:11 provides a detail of the raising of Lazarus; the coming of many Jews to faith in Jesus; the plotting of the religious leaders; and the anointing by Mary of Bethany the night before the triumphal entry)

1. The Triumphal Entry – Mt 21:1-11
2. The 2nd Cleansing of the Temple – Mt 21:12-17
3. The Cursing of the Fig Tree – Mt 21:18-22
4. The examination by the chief priests and elders & Jesus perfect rebuttal – Mt 21:23-32
5. The parable of the vineyard & Jesus' application– Mt 21:33-46