

## **ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER?**

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A couple of weeks ago I spoke about the “Crown of Victory”. Last week — we looked at what the Bible means by “The Time of the End”.

Both point us to the future.

Today ... I want to look at another future event — one that should be very exciting to contemplate — The Marriage Supper of The Lamb.

Will you be there? Will we receive our Crown of Victory? ☺ And where might it take place?

Even in this life ... weddings are often considered to be very special events. Brides and grooms look forward — perhaps nervously — to their forthcoming wedding. Friends and families get excited. Weddings can be simple ... from just the two witnesses ... or ... very ornate like some British Royal Weddings.

But can you imagine the Wedding of The Son of God ... to His lovely bride ... for eternity? Surely that will be one of the greatest events ... and celebrations ... of all time.

And you and I are invited. We are part of a special group.

Curiously ... the Marriage Supper is only mentioned once in the Bible. Let's look at that.

### **Revelation 19:7-9**

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.”**

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.

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.” (*Other translations — “Wedding Feast or Wedding Banquet”*)

The wedding is just about to take place. A major celebration which may last for weeks?

We are all going to want to be there!

That's the only direct reference to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. However ... Jesus explained more in the parable of the Marriage Feast.

#### **Matthew 22:1-14**

1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king (God The Father) who arranged a marriage for his son (Jesus Christ),

3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding." '

5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.'

9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment."

12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. (*He had no defence*)

13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

What can we see from that parable?

- It's about The Kingdom of Heaven
- A Royal Wedding
- The Father makes the preparations
- Verses 11-12 It was etiquette for the organiser to supply suitable wedding garments — this man was dishonouring the King ... dishonouring the Father
- The main lesson for us — **MANY ARE CALLED but FEW ARE CHOSEN**

We can see from this parable the Father plays a big role in His Son's wedding. It won't surprise us to understand that the Marriage of His Son is one of the greatest events in the Father's Eternal Life. Of course ... the Father is going to be involved ... in preparation ... in scrutinising the fitness of the guests (us — as the Bride) ... and surely it's the Father who will actually conduct the wedding ceremony ... who will officiate!

Surely it is inconceivable that the Father would miss this? It's such a great event!

So — if we are at the wedding — we will meet the Father for the first time. Something else to look forward to!

But when does the Marriage Supper take place? After Jesus' return ... of course ... but exactly when after His return?

And where will it take place? In Jerusalem ... in the clouds ... or even in Heaven itself? The 3 obvious places it could be.

Let's try to piece together the time-line.

As a basic framework ... we'd probably all agree that the Book of Revelation tells us there will be 7 seals ... the 7<sup>th</sup> seal will comprise 7 trumpets ... and then the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet which will usher in the 7 last plagues.

So where in that time-line are we resurrected ... changed ... born again to immortality?

#### **Matthew 24:27-31**

27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The coming of the Son of Man and the gathering of the saints at a great trumpet blast.

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. (*The dead saints*)

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The resurrection and change at the trumpet of God — and we meet the Lord Jesus in the clouds.

Which trumpet is it likely to be?

#### 1 Corinthians 15:50-54

50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed—

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

The dead are raised at the last trumpet. Which would be the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet?

So ... at this stage Jesus has returned as far as the clouds — where He meets the newly immortal saints. It will be a marvellous meeting! Let's ensure we will be there!

But now what? Do we drop back down to earth immediately? What about the Wedding and Marriage Supper/Feast/Banquet? Is God The Father going to come down to the ruins of battlefield Jerusalem to conduct the Wedding Ceremony among all of the fighting and resistance ... burning buildings ... depravity? No way!

### Revelation 21:1-3

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (This earth that we are on will have gone)

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

The Father isn't coming to this earth till it is purified ... cleansed ... and fit for the Almighty God ... the New Heavens and the New Earth. He isn't coming down to a ruined earth.

So ... Jesus has met His bride in the clouds ... but the Wedding will not take place on a wrecked earth — nor in the clouds ... which are an integral part of this sin-filled earth (and wicked spirits in the heavenlies?). This is not the location.

The only conclusion is that ... having collected His Bride ... Jesus immediately takes us all back with Him to the Father's home in heaven. Heaven — God's home — is where the Wedding will take place!

But isn't there a scripture that says Jesus' feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives "on that day"? Yes — but exactly when is "that day"? Is it the same day as we all meet in the clouds?? The answer is NO!

#### **Revelation 11:15-18**

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!**" (*But doesn't take full control immediately*)

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17 saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,  
The One who is and who was and who is to come,  
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 **The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,**  
**And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,**  
**And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,**  
**And those who fear Your name, small and great,**  
**And should destroy those who destroy the earth."**

The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. The saints rewarded and the nations about to be punished. That will take a little while.

#### **Revelation 15:1**

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: **seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**

The 7 last plagues which complete God's wrath on the nations.

**Jesus and His saints meet at the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet ... in the clouds.**

But now will take some time for the plagues to be poured out and give them time “to work”.

### **Revelation 16:1-2**

- 1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “**Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.**”
- 2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, **and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

2<sup>nd</sup> vial = oceans and the sea turn to blood

3<sup>rd</sup> vial = rivers and fresh-water supplies to blood

4<sup>th</sup> vial = sun scorches men — but they do not repent (verse 9)

5<sup>th</sup> vial = darkness on the Beast’s kingdom

These plagues are running for a number of days ... and potentially ... for weeks.

Let’s read about the 6<sup>th</sup> vial:

### **Revelation 16:12-16**

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on **the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up,** so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For **they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

15 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

These spirits assemble the kings of the earth and the whole world to the battle of Armageddon.

Surely it would take days or weeks to gather the whole world together?

The battle is the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty.

This is the climactic battle of Zechariah 14!!

**Zechariah 14:1-4**

1 **Behold, the day of the Lord is coming,**

And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For **I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;**

The city shall be taken,

The houses rifled,

And the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 **Then the Lord will go forth**

**And fight against those nations,**

**As He fights in the day of battle.**

4 And **in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,**

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

**And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,**

From east to west,

Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south. (*A huge earthquake*)

All nations to battle.

The Lord goes forth to battle.

On that day — His feet return to the Mount of Olives.

**Zechariah 14:9**

9 **And the Lord shall be King over all the earth.**

**In that day it shall be—**

**“The Lord is one,”**

**And His name one.**

Jesus is now King over all of the earth.

So ... at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet ... the resurrection takes place and Jesus meets His saints — His Bride ... in the clouds.

The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet begins the pouring out of the 7 last plagues ...which probably will run for several weeks — maybe even a month or two — till the Battle of Armageddon.

In that month or two or whatever period it is — where is Jesus ... and His Bride? I am going to suggest they are in heaven — being married and enjoying the Marriage Feast/Banquet. Heaven is where God the Father is ... and that's where He is going to officiate at His Son's Wedding!

And apart from the Wedding and Banquet ... and meeting The Father face-to-face ... I would imagine we'll all get a tour of heaven ... too?

Sounds great! ☺

Back to Revelation 19 and look at the actual Wedding.

#### Revelation 19:1

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to the Lord our God!

A “great multitude in heaven”? Who are that great multitude in the event just before the Wedding takes place? KJV: “much people”.

The Greek for “multitude/people” is OCHLOS. Used 176 times in the New Testament. Always means —multitudes or crowds **of people** — like you and me.

So. Who are these people? These are the resurrected saints in heaven ... gathered together ... just prior to the Wedding!

Compare the same expression:

#### Revelation 7:9-10, 14

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing

**before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ("great multitude" = OCHLOS)**

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "**These (the great multitude) are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (The saints of God)**

### **Revelation 19:1-9**

**1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to the Lord our God!**

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

**5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"**

**6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude**, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, **saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"**

**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."**

**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.**

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."

Now in heaven — the Marriage Banquet takes place. One of the greatest events in all eternity.

Later ... Jesus and His new bride return to the earth — to the Battle of The Great Day of God Almighty.

### **Revelation 19:11-15**

11 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.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. (*The resurrected saints ... the wife of the Lord Jesus Christ*)

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

So ... if we put the whole time-line together.

Jesus returns at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. The resurrection occurs and we meet Jesus in the clouds.

The 7 last plagues are poured out over several weeks ... or months ... leading up to the Battle of Armageddon.

During that time ... the saints are in heaven ... and will be married to Jesus by The Father in the greatest celebration in all of eternity! It will be quite an event!

**Then ... we return to earth with our Husband and King ... whose feet stand in that day on the Mount of Olives.**

Plenty to look forward to! The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Remember: Many are called ... few are chosen. Let's make our calling and election sure.