

Session 9 The Last Supper and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

I. THREE ASPECTS OF A JEWISH MARRIAGE

- A. At the last supper, Jesus established the marriage covenant and sealed it with wine—a betrothal cup. In John 13:2, the supper was the Passover meal. Most translations render 13:2 as indicating that the supper had begun—“during supper” (ESV) or “the evening meal was in progress” (NIV). There are other passages describing this supper (Mt. 26:17-29; Mk. 14:12-25; Lk. 22:7-38; I Cor. 11:23-25).
²And supper being ended the devil...already put it into the heart of Judas...to betray... (Jn. 13:2)
- B. I highlight three aspects of a Jewish marriage—the *betrothal*, the *ceremony*, and *marriage supper*. When a young man desired to marry a woman in ancient Israel, he prepared a covenant to present to the young woman and her father to show his commitment to care and provide for the young woman.
- C. ***The betrothal***: He proposed the bride price that he was willing to pay in exchange for permission to marry. In Jewish tradition, if the bride price was agreeable, the young man poured a cup of wine for the woman to drink to indicate that she agreed, and they were betrothed or engaged.
- D. This is a picture of what Jesus did at the last supper, offering the New Covenant to His disciples. As a bridegroom poured a cup of wine for his prospective bride to drink to seal the marriage contract, so Jesus poured a cup of wine—this declared the bride price He was willing to pay.
²⁶As they were eating...²⁷He took the cup...saying, “Drink from it...²⁸This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹...I will not drink of this fruit of the vine...until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (Mt. 26:26-29)
- E. When a person accepts Jesus as their Lord, they are betrothed or engaged to Him (2 Cor. 11:2).
²...I betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a...virgin to Christ. (2 Cor. 11:2)
- F. ***The wedding ceremony***: This occurs in the sky at the rapture when Jesus the Bridegroom returns to receive His prepared Bride to Himself (Jn. 14:3; Rev. 19:7).
³...I will come again and receive you to Myself [at the rapture] ... (Jn. 14:3)
¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven...the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive...shall be caught up together...to meet the Lord in the air... (1 Thes. 4:16-17)
⁷...the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready... (Rev. 19:7)
¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”...²⁰Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:17, 20)
- G. Jesus washes, nourishes, and cherishes His Bride with grace so she will be ready (Jn. 13:10; 15:3).
²⁶...that He might...cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church...²⁹[He] nourishes and cherishes [her]...³¹A man...[is] joined to his wife...³²This is a great mystery, I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:26-32)
³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (Jn. 15:3)

H. **The wedding supper:** After the wedding ceremony at the rapture, the wedding supper is celebrated on the millennial earth (Rev. 19:9). Those saved after the rapture will be invited to participate in the wedding feast. A bride is not “invited” to her own wedding as her guests are.

⁹**“Write, ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” (Rev. 19:9)**

1. Isaiah 25:6-8 describes what John highlighted related to the marriage supper (Rev. 19:9). At that time the “veil of darkness” that is spread over all nations will be removed (Isa. 25:7).

⁶**In this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces [foods] ...⁷And He will destroy on this mountain...the veil that is spread over all nations.** ⁸**He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. (Isa. 25:6-8)**

2. Paul spoke of a “veil of spiritual darkness” being over the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

³**...our gospel is veiled...to those...⁴whose minds the god of this age has blinded...**
(2 Cor. 4:3-4)

I. The Father’s house has many mansions (dwelling places). The New Jerusalem will descend to earth.

²**In My Father’s house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you.** ³**...I will come again and receive you to Myself [at the rapture] that where I am, there you may be also. (Jn. 14:1-3)**

⁹**[The angel said], “I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”** ¹⁰**He...showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God [to the millennial earth]... (Rev. 21:9-10)**

II. THE GREATEST SOCIAL MIRACLE IN HISTORY (ISA. 19:24; JN. 17:23)

A. Isaiah 19:24 describes the greatest international social miracle in history—the descendants of Abraham including those of Isaac and Ishmael together with Jacob and Esau will be deeply unified. The *ancient Assyrian Empire* included significant parts of modern-day Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon with parts of Armenia, Turkey, Iran and seven Persian Gulf countries (Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE)—it refers to parts of at least 14 modern nations.

²⁴**In that day [related to Jesus’ return] Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria— a blessing in the midst of the land [the earth],** ²⁵**whom the LORD...shall bless...** (Isa. 19:24-25)

B. This miracle of unity occurring throughout the Middle East will happen in context to Jesus’ return. It will be the epicenter of the Spirit’s worldwide work of unifying God’s people (Jn. 17:21-23).

²²**And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:**
²³**...that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them...** (Jn. 17:22-23)

C. **A blessing in midst of the earth:** The result will be the release of the blessing of the garden of Eden, in Jerusalem and throughout parts of Israel, Egypt, and Assyria (Isa. 11:6-9; 35:1-8; 51:3; 65:17-25; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12). Jesus will restore the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to the conditions seen in Eden. Millennial Jerusalem will be the epicenter from which “garden-of-Eden” blessings will progressively spread to fill the whole earth with God’s glory (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14).

III. ISRAEL WILL BE PROVOKED TO GODLY JEALOUSY BY GENTILE BELIEVERS

- A. God called the Church to stand with Israel in persecution as part of His plan *to provoke Israel to jealousy by the love of God* shown to them through Gentile believers (Rom. 10:19; 11:11). Israel will desire to have *what Gentile believers possess spiritually*. This will happen as Gentile believers show Jesus' love for Israel by *providing refuge* for Jews in flight, *praying for miracles* that remind them of their prophets, and being *fearless* in the face of death. Jesus requires His Church to partner with His leadership by standing for Israel as *Corrie Ten Boom's family* did in WWII.

¹¹...to provoke them [Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles...²⁶And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer [Jesus] will come out of Zion... (Rom. 11:11, 26)

- B. The Old Testament addresses *Jewish people* being scattered and/or taken captive—in over 30 passages—in context to the final 3½ years of this age and Jesus' return (Ps. 102:20; Isa. 11:11-12, 16; 14:2-3; 27:12-13; 42:7, 22-25; 49:9, 21-26; 60:14; 61:1; Jer. 30:3, 8-10, 17-18; 31:16-17, 23; 33:7, 11; Ezek. 34:27-29; 39:23-29; Hos. 11:10-11; Joel 3:1-3; Amos 9:14; Mic. 4:6-7; 7:12; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:11-12; 10:10-11; 13:8; 14:2; Lk. 21:24).

- C. Zechariah prophesied that half the *Jewish people* living Jerusalem (in final 42 months of this age) will be taken into captivity. Current, nearly 600, 000 Jews live in Jerusalem.

²I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken...half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant...shall not be cut off from the city. (Zech. 14:2)

- D. In Matthew 24:14-22, Jesus gave an important "interpretative grid" for understanding the biblical narrative of the end times. The difficulties in Israel and the nations will surpass any time in history (24:21). He emphasized the unprecedented death toll by saying that if this time was not short (42 months), no one would survive (24:22). The abomination of desolation occurs when the Antichrist places his image in the temple and requires the mark of the Beast (2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:12-18).

¹⁵"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place [in Jerusalem]...¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything...²¹There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world...nor ever shall be. ²²And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved..." (Mt. 24:15-22)

- E. Luke 21:20 was spoken by Jesus in the same message in which He prophesied what would happen at that time would far surpass the violence that occurred at any other time in history (Mt. 24:21-22). This prophecy was partially fulfilled in AD 70 when 1 million died.

²⁰But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near...

²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled...

²⁴And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all nations...

²⁷Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with...great glory. (Lk. 21:20-27)

⁶I will...give You [Jesus] as a covenant to [Israel]...⁷to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house...²²[Israel] is a people robbed and plundered; all of them are snared in holes, and are hidden in prison houses... ²³Who among you will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come? (Isa. 42:6-7, 22-23)

- F. The Lord is “preparing a table” for Jews fleeing from Judea in end times by preparing deeply committed Egyptian and Arabs believers throughout the Middle East to reveal Jesus’ love to them.
- G. The Lord will bring 1/3 of Israel through the fire to refine them in bringing them to salvation. It is possible that 5-6 million Jews will look to Jesus for salvation in context to His return.
⁹I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them...and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name...and each one will say, “The LORD is my God.” (Zech. 13:9)
- H. The whole earth will face a “valley of decision.” Nobody will escape it. God’s Word insists that the Church stand with God’s purposes for Israel. It is a *litmus test* of the Church’s obedience to Jesus’ leadership. We love Jesus; therefore, we want to embrace what He values and love what He loves. The consequence of churches not training their people in what Scripture says about God’s end-time purpose for Israel is that their children and grandchildren will have no foundation to stand for Israel.
*¹...in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,
²I will gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat [Jerusalem]...
¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! The day of the LORD is near... (Joel 3:1-3, 14)*
- I. The healing of Abraham’s family will be the *epicenter of the end-time drama*—it is the stage for the earth to see God’s glory (Jn. 17:23) and to be filled with the Father’s love for Jesus (Jn. 17:26).
²²And the glory...I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³...that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me...²⁶I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, (Jn. 17:22-26)
- J. After Israel is driven by God out of the promised land, they will recall God’s promises and judgments and will return to the Lord (30:1-2). Then the Lord will bring them back from captivity and gather them again from all nations to the promised land, and they will love Jesus (30:1-6).
¹It shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where...God drives you, ²and you return to the LORD...God will bring you back from captivity...⁶[He] ...will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart... (Deut. 30:1-6)
- K. This hostility will be a global theater for many to see the “greater love” (of those who express their love for Jesus by standing with Israel (Jn. 15:13) and “greater works” (Jn. 14:12; cf. Mic. 7:15).
*¹³Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends... (Jn. 15:13)
¹²...the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do... (Jn. 14:12)
¹⁵As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)*
- L. Jesus prophesied those who killed His people would believe that they were serving God (Jn. 16:2).
¹These things I have spoken to you that you should not...stumble. ²They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. (Jn. 16:1-2)