

The Bridegroom Is Coming

A Biblical Look At Christian
Preparedness Part 1

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The Bridegroom Was Taken Away

Mark 2:19-20 And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom cannot fast, can they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. **But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,** and then they will fast in that day.

Jesus Predicted His Departure

John 6:62 "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before?"

John 13:33 "Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.'"

The Bridegroom Prepares For His Bride

John 14:1-3 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 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.**

Paralambano = "to receive to oneself"

The Bridegroom Receives His Bride

Matthew 1:20 ..."Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as **your wife**; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as **his wife**.

Bridegroom Imagery Elsewhere

Isaiah 62:5 For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, **rejoices greatly** because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full.

Bridegroom Imagery Elsewhere

Ephesians 5:29-33 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church because we are members of His body. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." **This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.** Nevertheless each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

"The image is further developed in Eph. 5:22-33. The saying in Gn. 2:24 concerning the union of man and wife is referred in v. 31f. to the union (at the parousia) of Christ the Bridegroom, who leaves heaven and comes for His bride, and the community... What is certain is that only in the post-N.T. period did mysticism seize on the allegory, divest it of its eschatological content, and fatally link with it instead the sensual content of Hellenistic ἐρὸς γάμος ideas." (Jeremias, TDNT, vol. 4, 1104-1106).

Bridegroom Imagery Elsewhere

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Matthew 16:4 "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah."

James 4:4a You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

1. Bride price (*mohar*) was negotiated:
1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
2. Once the price was paid the groom and bride drank from a "covenant cup," and the bride was sanctified (set apart) for her husband:
Matt 26:27-28 And when He had taken **a cup** and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

- Ephesians 5:25b-26a...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her...
3. The groom would give gifts so that his bride would remember him while he was gone:
Ephesians 4:8, 11 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men...And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers...(Gen 24:53).

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

4. The bride would take a mikveh (bath) to symbolize purity:
John 1:33b He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'
- Acts 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

5. After the marriage covenant was ratified, the groom went to prepare a place in his father's house:

John 14:2b-3 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 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."

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

6. The bridegroom and escorts went to the bride's home. Because he was unexpected – the arrival was announced with a shout:

1 Thess 4:16 For the **Lord Himself** will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Matt 25:5-6 Now while **the bridegroom was delaying**, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

7. The groom and veiled bride would return to the father's house and consummate the marriage in the bridal chamber (chuppah). The groom would come out just to announce the consummation:

John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of **the bridegroom's voice**. So this joy of mine has been made full.

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

8. The groom and bride remain in the bridal chamber for seven days:

Revelation 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Daniel 9:27a And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week...

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

9. After the seven days the groom and bride came out of the chamber, and she was unveiled:

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

1 John 3:2a Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be.

The Jewish Wedding Object Lesson

10. The groom and his bride would take part in the "great" wedding feast:

Revelation 19:9 ...Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

We Must Be Prepared!

Matthew 25:1-6 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout. Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

We Must Be Prepared!

Matthew 25:7-10 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the prudent answered, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.

We Must Be Prepared!

Matthew 25:11-13 Later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then, **for you do not know the day nor the hour.**

Be on the alert = gregoreo – 13 times in eschatological passages

Jesus' Coming Is Imminent

1. Jesus' coming is like the flood:

Matt 24:42 Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

2. Jesus comes like a thief:

Matt 24:43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert...

Jesus' Coming Is Imminent

3. Jesus comes like the master of the house:

Mark 13:35 Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming...

4. Jesus comes like a bridegroom for His bride:

Matthew 25:13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Do You Have On Wedding Clothes?

Matthew 22:2, 12-13 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son... 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sources For The Jewish Wedding

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