

Apocalyptic Gospel Podcast – Ep. 25: The Kingdom of God and the Messianic Banquet - NOTES

Opposite Gehenna, is the reward for righteous

Fullness of resurrection / eschatological reward – drives discipleship

Luke 14: ¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Luke 22:28-30 ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel

Center of the restoration of the Kingdom which is attached to the parousia (return) of Jesus
Themes

1. Messianic Banquet implies a restored Eden

Invokes anticipation of joy across all cultures

Isaiah 25:6-9 ⁶ On this mountain [Zion] the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹ In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Connect resurrection, banquet, and themes of curse on creation and on Israel (Is 24 alludes to final cursed state)

2 Baruch 29:5-30:5 ⁵ The earth also shall yield its fruit ten-thousandfold and on each (?) vine there shall be a thousand branches, and each branch shall produce a thousand clusters, and each cluster produce a thousand grapes, and each grape produce a cor of wine. ⁶ And those who have hungered shall rejoice: moreover, also, they shall behold marvels every day. ⁷ For winds shall go forth from before Me to bring every morning the fragrance of aromatic fruits, and at the close of the day clouds distilling the dew of health. ⁸ And it shall come to pass at that self-same time that the treasury of manna shall again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years, because these are they who have come to the consummation of time. ³⁰ ¹ And it shall come to pass after these things, when the time of the advent of the Messiah is fulfilled, that He shall return in glory. ² Then all who have fallen asleep in hope of Him shall rise again. And it shall come to pass at that time that the treasuries will be opened in which is preserved the number of the souls of the righteous, and they shall come forth, and a multitude of souls shall be seen together in one assemblage of one thought, and the first shall rejoice and the last shall not be grieved. ³ For they know that the time has come of which it is said, that it is the consummation of the times. ⁴ But the souls of the wicked, when they behold all these things, shall then waste away the more. ⁵ For they shall know that their torment has come and their perdition has arrived.'

These themes are assumed (spoken without explanation) in New Testament...

Rev 2: ⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Rev 2: ¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Rev 2: ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna.

Matt 8: ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast [table] with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

The issue is not “new” information (these are rather assumed/common expectations – from Tanakh) about what will be happening when the Messiah returns, but how you will respond now/who will be admitted [who has faith].

Emphasis of relaxation, rejoicing, indulging, with no anxiety, toiling, etc. – reverse of curse – abundance and fullness

2. **Messianic Banquet Implies military victory**

Victory followed by celebration/banquet, eating and drinking....

1 Chron 12: ³⁸ All these were fighting men who volunteered to serve in the ranks. They came to Hebron fully determined to make David king over all Israel. All the rest of the Israelites were also of one mind to make David king. ³⁹ The men spent three days there with David, eating and drinking, for their families had supplied provisions for them. ⁴⁰ Also, their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules and oxen. There were plentiful supplies of flour, fig cakes, raisin cakes, wine, olive oil, cattle and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.

Messiah will divinely come and climactically defeat Israel’s enemies, then sets up Kingdom and celebration will occur...

Isaiah 34: 5When My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens, then it will come down upon Edom, upon the people I have devoted to destruction. 6The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood. It drips with fat— with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah, a great slaughter in the land of Edom. 7And the wild oxen will fall with them, the young bulls with the strong ones. Their land will be drenched with blood, and their soil will be soaked with fat. 8For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.

1 Enoch 62: 12. And they will become a spectacle to the righteous and to His chosen ones; they will rejoice over them, for the anger of the Lord of Spirits will rest upon them, and the sword of the Lord of Spirits will be drunk with them. 13. And the righteous and the chosen will be saved on that Day and they will never see the faces of the sinners and the lawless from then on. 14. And the Lord of Spirits will remain over them and with that Son of Man they will dwell, and eat, and lie down, and rise up, forever and ever.

This is echoed in Rev 18 (climactic battle), and Rev 19 (celebration/marriage supper)

3. Messianic Banquet implies Marriage Celebration / Covenantal

Ex 24: 9Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, 10and they saw the God of Israel. Under His feet was a work like a pavement made of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. 11But God did not lay His hand on the nobles of Israel; they saw Him, and they ate and drank.

God's covenant relationship with Israel (akin to bride/bridegroom) will be consummated in the Kingdom of God...

[Isa 54:5-10 CSB] 5 "Indeed, your husband is your Maker -- his name is the LORD of Armies -- and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of the whole earth. 6 "For the LORD has called you, like a wife deserted and wounded in spirit, a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," says your God. 7 "I deserted you for a brief moment, but I will take you back with abundant compassion. 8 "In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but I will have compassion on you with everlasting love," says the LORD your Redeemer. 9 "For this is like the days of Noah to me: when I swore that the water of Noah would never flood the earth again, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you or rebuke you. 10 "Though the mountains move and the hills shake, my love will not be removed from you and my covenant of peace will not be shaken," says your compassionate LORD.

cf. Hosea 2, Ezekiel 16 ("adultery" = unfaithful Israel [turning to other gods])

[John 2:11 CSB] 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory [resurrection/age to come/etc.], and his disciples believed in him.

Cf. Bridegroom passages – Matt 9, Mark 2, Luke 5, John 3, etc.

Consistent covenant/wedding imagery is highlighting the need for right response to the reality [eternal glory is coming, so live accordingly in anticipation of]

1 Enoch 62: 15. And the righteous and chosen will have risen from the earth, and will have ceased to cast down their faces, and will have put on the Garment of Life. 16. And this will be a Garment of Life from the Lord of Spirits; and your garments will not wear out, and your glory will not fail, in front of the Lord of Spirits.

cf. Wedding Garments: Rev 3, Rev. 19, Rom 13, Matt 22

How do all three of these themes converge in the words of Jesus?

[Mat 22:1-14 ESV] 1 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."' 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you

get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

This highlights response and cuts through hypocrisy/pretense, that our response would be repentance

cf. Matt 24 – parable of wise virgins

[Luk 22:14-18, 28-30 ESV] 14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ... 28 "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

All he is talking about is the age to come, messianic banquet, etc.

This is the center of the Messianic expectation – Jesus wants you there, but you must respond appropriately (humility, obedience, etc.)

"The next meal of Jesus with his disciples will be the messianic meal on a transformed earth. It will be a fulfillment of the apocalyptic saying 'the Lord of spirits will abide over them and with the Son of Man they will eat and lie down and rise up forever and ever' (1 Enoch 62:14)..... Jesus will drink the wine new, adds Mark in 14:25 – to be new is the mark of the redeemed world and of the time of salvation and of the transformed creation when Matthew with equal correctness adds 'with you' Matt 26:29 he is expressing the idea that the Passover of the Consummation will be a consummation of the fellowship of the community of the redeemed with the Redeemer on a transformed earth where perfect communion with God will have become a reality through a transformation of the body. Jesus will again, as now with the Lord's Supper, act as 'pater familias' (head of the family), and break the blessed bread and offer them the cup of thanksgiving. He himself being once more the giver and the server of his own – the recipients who are eating and drinking receive the salvation gift of god – eternal life.

At the table, in the Kingdom, on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem

Not talked about much today because of realized eschatology (realized now spiritually) and it is totally Jewish

[1Co 11:26 ESV] 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

If Paul thought this was realized in any way spiritually, he would have directly said that or taught it

Standard explanation: Either this is sacramental or what added later to text (centuries later). However, this is extremely consistent with biblical themes and the words of Jesus.

Communion meal is EXTREMELY powerful and ROBUST when rightly shared with one another (believers) to focus on the eschatological reality of the redeemed eating and drinking in His kingdom to come.

To intercede together with a heart of “maranatha” to implore God daily to bring about the consummation – remember the Messiah, your son, your people, your covenants, His shed blood, etc.

The main thrust is not for us to remember what Jesus did, but to intercede for God to remember his promises and come.

Getting together to implore the Lord, but in the context of a meal since/to remind us that is the reality to come.

This is not just imagery, there is going to be a real feast – or else why all the details (fine wine, choice meats, etc.)? To invoke joyful anticipation (as opposed to the fearful expectation of judgment) – it balances. We need both!

Motivation to say “NO” to ungodliness and to say “YES” to walking in righteousness (obedience)

[1Pe 1:3-9 ESV] 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The reality of the age to come -- ie. Messiah returning, the resurrection of the dead, a restored earth, a real banquet, with real delicious food, the defeat of all God's enemies, the vindication of the righteous, fulfillment of all God's promises, etc. -- must grip your soul and heart to produce joy in the midst of difficulties in this age.

[Rom 15:8-13 ESV] 8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order **to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.** As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." 10 And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." 12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." 13 **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

ESCHATOLOGY DRIVES DISCIPLESHIP