

The Parable of the **WEDDING BANQUET**

Matthew 22 is the story told by Jesus, as a parable, of a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. The story begins immediately with the sending out of the invitations and the reaction of these guests.

These guests HAD LONG received their invitations.

“He sent his servants to those **who had been invited** to the banquet to tell them to come” (Matthew 22:3). God sent servants to those who **HAD** been invited. The use of the past tense indicates that these guests knew about the wedding for a long time and they were friends and family with a close history.

These invited guests REFUSED to attend the wedding.

“But they refused to come” (Matthew 22:3). “Refused” is a strong word that suggests disdain for either the bridegroom and/or his Father.

The Father of the groom sends a reminder to these guests that the meal is ready, the time is NOW and they IGNORE it. Again, he sent other servants, saying, “Say to those having been invited, ‘Behold, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and the fatlings have been killed, and all things are ready; come to the wedding feast.’ But they paid no attention and went away, one to his field, another to his business” (Matthew 22:4-5).

They return and continue with their every-day business, defiantly prioritizing their every-day life as being more important than the wedding supper of their king’s son.

Worst still, those still standing before the king’s servants are filled with rage and they seize, taunt and kill the servants of the king. “Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them” (Matthew 22:6). Such hatred oozes from these invited guests that their act of murder openly declares rebellion on their king.

It is any wonder that the king is enraged and sends His army who destroys these murderers and burns their city (Matthew 22:7).

The parable of the wedding supper is a story of a spiritual scene. It is at this point of the story that an unnoticed passageway opens that brings meaning into Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. Often referred to as a “gap” in creation, this break could explain who replaced the unworthy invited guests.

In Genesis 1:1 Moses recorded God’s words, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Both the heavens and the earth were created at the same time—at the beginning.

In Genesis 1:2 Moses recorded again God's words, "Now **the earth** was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Only the earth was formless and empty; the heavens was completed and filled with life—eternal life, before the earth was made complete and ready for God's next creation—mankind.

It was like God had planned the creation of mankind on earth at the same time that the heaven was created, but put its completion on hold because He first decided to test and purify His heavenly creation. During Job's time, he and his friends understood some heavenly matters lost to 21st century Christians.

"What is man, that he should be pure, or one born of woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, **God puts no trust in his holy ones, and THE HEAVENS ARE NOT PURE IN HIS SIGHT;** how much less man, who is vile and corrupt, who drinks injustice like water?" (Job 15:14-16)

"If **God places NO TRUST in his servants, if he charges his angels WITH ERROR,** how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust, who can be crushed like a moth!" (Job 4:18)

"Again, there was a day when **the sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD**" (Job 2:1).

Scriptures show that the heavens are NOT pure. They were **not pure BEFORE the creation of mankind**, since it was the serpent who deceived mankind. Christianity is aware of Satan, the devil and demons. Are these the invited guests who REFUSED to attend the wedding supper of His Son or are there others in heaven, as well as these, who have refused to attend?

Paul said that mankind's fight is **NOT against flesh and blood**—people on this planet, but against **HEAVENLY RULERS, POWERS AND AUTHORITIES** (Ephesians 6:12).

Heavenly RULERS, heavenly POWERS and heavenly entities given AUTHORITY are mankind's true enemies. **The sins of mankind are primarily through deception: lies and twisted truths** from these rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities.

Why is mankind so quick to mythicize their true enemies and minimize their influence? Whose voice perpetually speaks across the air waves into the ears of mankind, lying to them at every moment, every day, but **the COMMANDER of the heavenly POWERS.**

"You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, **obeying the devil—THE COMMANDER OF THE POWERS IN THE UNSEEN WORLD. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God**" (Ephesians 2:2).

God's plan in completing the earth and creating mankind was made clear when God said to them, "**Replenish and fill the earth**" (Genesis 1:28) and to Noah in Genesis 9:1. The timing of

this second creation seems to be determined from the great rebellion in heaven, when God decided to **REPLACE the wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities** with repentant, righteous mankind.

The Psalmist recorded: "I [God Almighty] said, '**You are gods; YOU ARE ALL SONS OF THE MOST HIGH. But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler**'" (Psalm 82:6).

God gave these spiritual rulers, powers and authorities a second chance. He reminded them of their invitation when the meal was prepared, but they ignored Him and some became violent that God was forced to destroy them and their home of wickedness. God has fought many battles on earth, in addition, to battles in heaven. Giants lived in the land of Canaan prior to the arrival of God's people. These giants are not the children of Adam and Eve. In the latter days, inhabitants on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life since the creation of the world will become known (Revelation 17:8). They are not offspring of Adam and Eve that is why their names are not written in the book of life from the beginning of creation.

The invited guests are no longer worthy.

God concluded in Matthew 22:8: "And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and **the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor.**'" We see into the world of the heavens through a glass darkly. Likely, God is protecting us from the horror of wickedness and what it has become. That would explain why God has placed Michael, the Archangel over us to keep the terrifying forces of wickedness from touching us, until the day when he is told to stand down.

"Now at that time, **Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people,** will arise. And there will be a time of distress, such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, **everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued**" (Daniel 12:1).

Those wicked heavenly guests are no longer worthy.

There will be earthly guests who too, won't be worthy.

The parable states, "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed **a man** there who was **not wearing wedding clothes**. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth'" (Matthew 22:11-13).

Clothing that covers the body is God's imagery for behavior and faithfulness to God. Wedding attire is the finest clothing a person owns. Those who attend a wedding spend more time beautifying themselves than for any other event. Inappropriate attire, is symbolic for unrighteous behavior that reflects a disdain for God. Unrepentant mankind will not be attending the wedding supper of God's Son along with the rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities who received their invitation a long time ago.

The new guests who are invited are both good and bad; they will attend the wedding supper. “Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So, the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, **both good and bad**, and **the wedding hall was FILLED with guests** (Matthew 22:9-10). As Adam and Eve and Noah were commanded to **replenish and fill the earth**, so **the wedding hall will be replenished and filled with new guests.**

It would appear that when God planned His Son’s wedding, before the completion of the earth and the creation of mankind, He made a list of guests and sent out the invitations. The heavens, which were at one time pure became tainted with iniquity. Certain rulers, powers and authorities in heaven did not confirm their reservation, instead they plotted against the King and His Son.

So, God was forced to battle against them. He, then decided to complete the earth and create mankind who would **replenish the guest list and to the amazement and wonder of the saints, God would select them to be the bride for His Son.**

At the time of the upcoming wedding supper, the guests will comprise of both the good and the bad. The good are likely the righteous heavenly members and the bad are likely repentant mankind (dressed appropriately, that is, they repented) but are **not yet resurrected** into their glorious bodies, so cannot be considered good.

Jesus, whose glorious body was down-graded into a physical form so that he could die for mankind said, “**Why do you call me good?** No one is good except God alone” (Mark 10:18). Jesus then proceeded to remind the rich man of God’s commandments and ended his conversation by concluding that without completely foregoing this physical world and putting all you have into building an intimate relationship with God and following Jesus, there is no treasure in heaven. The heavenly members at the wedding supper have been tested and they are totally faithful to their Creator; they remain “good,” living righteously having never sinned, but mankind won’t be considered good until they are resurrected into their spiritual bodies.

The wedding supper of Christ and his faithful church will be attended by both friends of Christ from the heavenly realm and the friends of the Church from the earthly realm. The heavens will be visible to mankind at that time for “the sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places” (Revelation 6:14 and Isaiah 34:4).

This will be a time when a repentant remnant from all nations will stand on the earth, possibly also the physical resurrection of ancient Israel (**God’s first-born**) in Ezekiel 37 **to witness THE EVENT**, prior to the ushering in of the Millennium, when Christ will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. They will be worthy to attend the most significant and glorious event ever to occur in God’s creation: both the wedding and the wedding supper of Jesus Christ and his bride. It will be the preface to **a unique time in all creation when two realms: the heavenly and the earthly, come together through marriage.**



When all is restored, God will create “a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth” will pass away, and there will no longer be any sea—the haven of wickedness (Revelation 21:1).

Many are invited to this most wonderful and joyous occasion, but only the few who sacrificed everything will be chosen to rule with God and His Son, for they value treasures in heaven.

Compiled by Janette Andrejowich