

WHO IS TO BE THE BRIDE OF YESHUA?

Israel, the Jews, Gentiles, or the Church?

The apostles wondered who would be the greatest in the Kingdom. Yeshua answered that question for us, "he who serves the most will be the greatest". This attitude of wanting to be the greatest still prevails among us today. Some claim the church is going to be the bride of Christ. Some claim it is going to be the Jews, or Israelites. Some insist the wedding is going to take place in heaven. Some believe it will happen here on earth. Usually out of text scriptures are quoted to support each individual argument. How can we know? Let's look at some scriptures that addresses the subject of the kingdom of heaven. Yeshua uses marriage or a wedding to illustrate his point.

Mat.22:1 ¶ And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Now most of us believe he was referring to the Father and Himself as the bridegroom in this parable.

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Again, we see that those who were bidden (Israelites?) did not take the offer seriously.

4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

He made a second effort to get them to come, not as the bride, but as guests.

5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

We see that those who were invited as guests were hostile to the messengers (the witnesses of Yeshua?) and murdered them.

7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Did not God send armies to destroy Jerusalem after the death of Yeshua?

Will He not do the same after the resurrection of the whole house of Israel, with Gog and many other Gentile nations? Read Eze.36, 37, 38 and 39.

8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. Those who were invited were "guests". They were not the bride.

11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding

garment:

12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

These other “guests” were any who were receptive, but were expected to be dressed properly or they would not be accepted. In other words, before they were accepted they were required to have been cleansed and dressed in righteousness.

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

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Now Yeshua is clearly giving a parable about who will be invited, as guests, to his wedding. Now we will go to another parable that involves a wedding.

Mat.25: 1 ¶ Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This is a parable illustrating the wedding of Yeshua and those who have been called to be guests. These ten virgins, as many seem to think, are not the bride. Why “virgins”? From a spiritual point of view they were undefiled by false religions. They were hopeful of being “guests” just as the previous parable explains. They represent those who have been invited (called) to the wedding. They have accepted that Yeshua is the groom, the son of God, they have anticipated being at the wedding, but half of them came unprepared. They relied on others to help them with their spiritual responsibilities. This can apply to any of us as individuals, or to large groups (half?) of peoples who have been called and tasted of the good gifts of God. We see that they got to the wedding and were not really concerned about their responsibility as a believer until the very end, then it was too late. They believed in God, they believed the Bible to be the word of God and that the son of God, Yeshua, is coming back to earth some day to claim his bride; otherwise they wouldn’t be there to welcome him. When they finally got back they discovered they were not accepted. This is not a message for the world in general, but for those of us

who are want-a-be Christians satisfied with a luke warm, Laodicean attitude (Rev.3:14-18). Since these two parables deal with “guests” who might they be and who is the actual “bride” of Yeshua? Many think that only (converted) Christians will make up the “bride”, or that the Jews will be the bride. Some think that those in the first resurrection will be the bride.

We read in Rev.6:9-11 of those righteous people who have been killed, before the fifth of seven seals, and others who will yet be killed as they were (for their faith in God).

Rev.7:3-8 tells of the 144 thousand from the twelve tribes of Israel who are to be “sealed” before the angel unleashes more curses upon the earth. Does this mean that that many Israelites will be converted by this “sealing” which represents the holy spirit? What about others? In the same chapter in verses 9-17 we read of a great multitude from all nations which comes out of “great tribulation”; they are described as “servants”. After this follows the 7th and last seal which ushers in the seven trumpets, the three woes, and the seven vials of God’s wrath, taking us up to the very end of this age.

In chapter 14:1-5 we read of another 144 thousand that were virgins, not defiled with women (false religions?). They are firstfruits redeemed from (bought) from the earth. They follow Yeshua wherever he goes. None of these are referred to as the “Bride”.

All of this is described before the seven vials of God’s wrath is poured out in Rev.16:1-21. Christ has not yet returned to the earth. Please read these verses from your own Bible.

Paul states in 1Cor.15:20 that Yeshua is the firstfruits of them that are dead because of his death and resurrection. In a sense we then are part of the firstfruits only IF we are accounted worthy to be in that first resurrection “at his coming”. However, no mention of a “bride” is made.

But who is the Bride? We read of her in Rev.20:7 as the wife who “has made herself ready”. In verse 7-8 she is described as being clothed with righteousness. Again we have reference to those “guests” who will be invited to the marriage supper.

Finally we are introduced to the Bride in Rev.21

9 ¶ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.

The flat statement “I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife” is plain enough. So we have assumed that a people will be chosen to be the bride so let’s see if that is so.

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Now we know Yeshua is not going to wed a physical building, or a city of buildings, so this must have a deeper spiritual meaning to the description.

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

To save space verses that describe the city is left for the reader to read from their own Bible.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

1 ¶ And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

6 ¶ And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

This is a city of perfection from which Yeshua and his family will rule the nations. But notice who is to dwell here, God the Father, the bridegroom and the bride, in this beautiful city. Most biblical scholars understand that the number of twelve is used in the bible to represent perfection and completeness. We read of a great wall that has twelve gates representing the 12 completed and perfected tribes of Israel with their angels at each gate. Along with the tribes of Israel are the 12 apostles whose lives and teaching is the foundations of a perfected church. We could continue to elaborate on the rest of the city of perfection, the river of life (the holy spirit), the tree of life with it's fruit and healing leaves which represent the purity of truth, light and life that will flow unto the nations from this family of God, the Father, the Son and the Bride. The question may remain: who are the guests? Since the guests are not the bride, they must be the nations who were like the 5 virgins, they didn't make it but will be resurrected to physical life who must yet prove themselves worthy. To read more about the times and events described in prophetic detail go to the many bible studies at foust.info that explains much more about future events in God's eternal plan for all of mankind, including many Gentile nations, and Israel.