

PICTURES OF HEAVEN

Five Biblical Descriptions

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

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Date: 1-17-16

Lesson: 2. The Wedding Banquet



THE BIBLICAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. The New Jerusalem
- 2. The Wedding Banquet**
3. The New Garden of Eden - Paradise
4. The Peaceable Kingdom
5. The Whole Company of Saints and Angels

A. THE BIBLICAL TEXTS:

(Isaiah 61:10) I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with **the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom** decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a **bride adorns herself with her jewels.**

(Isaiah 62:3-5) You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. (4) You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land **Married**; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be **married.** (5) For **as a young man marries a young woman**, so shall your sons marry you, and as **the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,** so shall your God rejoice over you.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34) "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though **I was their husband, declares the Lord.** (33) But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (34) And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

(John 2:1-11) On the third day **there was a wedding** at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **(2) Jesus also was invited to the wedding** with his disciples. (3) When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (4) And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." (5) His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (6) Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. (7) Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. (8) And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. (9) When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom (10) and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." (11) **This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.** And his disciples believed in him.

(John 3:27-30) John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. (28) You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not **the Christ**, but I have been sent before him.' **(29) The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.** Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. (30) He must increase, but I must decrease."

(Matthew 9:15) And Jesus said to them, "Can **the wedding guests** mourn as long as **the bridegroom** is with them? The days will come when **the bridegroom** is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

(Matthew 22:2-14) **"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."

(Matthew 25:1-13) **"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.** (2) Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. (3) For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, (4) but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. (5) As **the bridegroom** was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. (6) But at

midnight there was a cry, 'Here is **the bridegroom**! Come out to meet him.' (7) Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' (9) But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' (10) And while they were going to buy, **the bridegroom came**, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. (11) Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' (12) But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' (13) Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

(Mark 2:19-20) And Jesus said to them, "Can **the wedding guests** fast while **the bridegroom** is with them? As long as they have **the bridegroom** with them, they cannot fast. (20) The days will come when **the bridegroom** is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

(Luke 5:34-35) And Jesus said to them, "Can you make **wedding guests** fast while **the bridegroom** is with them? (35) The days will come when **the bridegroom** is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

(Luke 12:35-40) "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, (36) and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from **the wedding feast**, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. (37) Blessed are those servants whom **the master** finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. (38) If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! (39) But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. (40) You also must be ready, for **the Son of Man** is coming at an hour you do not expect."

(Luke 14:7-11) Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, (8) "When you are invited by someone to a **wedding feast**, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, (9) and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. (10) But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. (11) For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

(Revelation 19:5-9) (5) And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." (6) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come, and **his Bride** has made herself ready; (8) it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (9) And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited **to the marriage supper of the Lamb**." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

(Revelation 21:1-3) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as **a bride adorned for her husband**. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

(Revelation 22:16-17) "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." (17) **The Spirit and the Bride say**, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

B. THE DOCTRINE: Luther's Works Vol. 23, Page 114

"Or if He makes wine out of water, as He did at **the wedding in Cana** (John 2:7)—which is, of course, a miracle—it is still natural wine and retains the properties of wine. Thus this manna was also flour from heaven, and this bread merely preserved and nourished the body. It only fed the body, but it produced no greater effect than other natural bread. But here we have the bread of life from heaven; he who eats of this will not die."

C. THE HYMNS AND WORSHIP:

LSB 514 "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us": The **Bridegroom** soon will call us, "Come to **the wedding feast**."

May slumber not befall us, Nor watchfulness decrease. May all our lamps be burning, With oil enough and more,
That we, with Him returning, May find an open door!

LSB 516 "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying": Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all, **The wedding hall**, To eat **the Supper** at Thy call

D. THE MEANING FOR YOU:

How does this picture of heaven inspire you and become a cause for rejoicing?