

Matthew 22:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son (ὡμοιωθή ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ὅστις ἐποίησεν γάμους τῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ)—The *basileia tōn ouranōn* (kingdom of heaven) is compared to a royal wedding feast. The *basileus* (king) represents God the Father; the *huios* (son) is Christ; the *gamous* (marriage feast) symbolizes the messianic banquet and the union of Christ with His bride, the Church.

In rabbinic thought, the messianic age was often portrayed as a wedding celebration (Isaiah 25:6-9; 62:4-5). Jesus appropriates this imagery to present the kingdom as both a present invitation and future consummation. Revelation 19:7-9 identifies this feast as the 'marriage supper of the Lamb.'

Historical Context

Royal weddings in the ancient Near East were weeklong celebrations requiring months of preparation. Invitations were sent well in advance, with a second summons when everything was ready. The honor of attending a royal wedding was immense—refusal was unthinkable and could be seen as treason.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that the kingdom is not just 'like a king' but specifically like a wedding feast—why this image?
2. How does viewing salvation as a wedding invitation (rather than mere rescue from hell) change your understanding of the gospel?
3. In what sense is Christ's relationship with the Church a 'marriage,' and what does this imply about intimacy with God?

Interlinear Text

Ὡμοιωθή	ἡ	βασιλεία	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	ἀνθρώπῳ	βασιλεῖ
is like	G3588	The kingdom	G3588	of heaven	unto a certain	king
G3666		G932		G3772	G444	G935
ὅστις	ἐποίησεν	γάμους	τῷ	υἱῷ	αὐτοῦ	
which	made	a marriage	G3588	son	G846	
G3748	G4160	G1062		G5207		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:24 (Kingdom): Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

2 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.