

# 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

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**The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son** (ώμοιώθη ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ὅστις ἐποίησεν γάμους τῷ νίῳ 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

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.