

WHERE AM I GOING?

Introduction: We have looked at “Who am I?” and “Why am I Here?”

- Now we ask: “where am I going?”

ILLUSTRATION: recent photos of universe...

- Light in recently released photo from NASA reputedly 13 million years old.
 - It causes us to reflect on what eternity is...
 - Scientists are asking: *Does the universe just expand, run out of steam, and then collapse?*
- Is the saying “from dust we come, and to dust we return” all there is in life?



QUOTE: Many scientists try to reason their way to truth without the help of the Supreme. NASA scientist Robert Jastrow said, “For the scientist who has lived by faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak. As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Revelation 19:7-9 *Let us rejoice and be glad, and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*

Then the angel said to me: “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “these are the true words of God.”



- YOU are invited.
- The marriage feast is a picture of the final destination of the believer.

1. The Promise:

(a) The Commitment

- Bride's parents representing the bride make a commitment (sign a contract with the bridegroom) – “Ketubah”
 - When a person confesses “Jesus is Lord”, that makes Jesus #1 in their lives, and they enter into a “contract” with Jesus.
- The bridegroom also makes a commitment: “this is my bride”.
 - Bride could say “this is my husband to be...”
- To put someone aside (break engagement) was considered as serious as getting a divorce.



(b) The Seal

- Price was paid – called a “dowry”.
- Dowry could be paid in money / goods, OR the bridegroom could work (for the father) for a period of time.
- Involved an exchange of gifts (eg engagement ring).

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

1 Corinthians 6:20 *You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.*

1 Corinthians 7:23 *You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.*

- Price was paid

Ephesians 1:13-14 *And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possessions – to the praise of His glory.*

- Greek word for “seal” = engagement ring/ deposit



2. The Invitation

BACKGROUND: After about 1 year, with the knowledge of the bride, the bridegroom would gather his mates at midnight and would form a torchlight parade to the bride's house. The bride would have readied her maidens and they would join the torchlight parade to the bridegroom's home – the place he had prepared for her.

Matthew 25:1 *At that time, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom...*

- 10 virgins – those who have committed their lives to Christ (bridegroom)

Matthew 25:2-7 *The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 'The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

At midnight, the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps...

- All started with lamps
 - Difference was the amount of oil.
 - You don't need much oil for inactivity

Matthew 25:8-9 *The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." "No," they replied, "There may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves."*

- The oil of the Holy Spirit is available for all, but each one must be filled individually
- Some are stirred by the signs or the times, but have no power to point people to Jesus or to live in difficult times.

Matthew 25:10-13 *But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.*

Later, the others also came. "Sir! Sir!" they cried. "Open the door for us!" But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you." Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day of the hour.

- These had been invited, but the door was now shut.

3. The Main Event

- Jesus is coming again!
 - I am not destined for dust or nothingness.

John 14:1-4 *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.*

- The bridegroom has gone to prepare a place for his bride.
 - "I will come back so you can be with me..."
- What does this look like?

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 *for the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.*

- Dead will rise
- Those alive will be caught up.

Revelation 19:9 *Then the angel said to me: "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "these are the true words of God."*