

Restoration of the Kingdom of God – 4

The restoration of the Kingdom of God under David's dynasty - **Acts 1:6; Isaiah 9:7** - will be an occasion of unparalleled rejoicing for those who have been waiting for God to fulfil His promise - **Mark 15:43**. Great will be the celebration after the resurrection when Jesus has returned -

- *"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be **changed**" - 1 **Corinthians 15:51** - that change will be from the present mortal nature to the indestructible Divine nature - 54 "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory'." - see 2 **Peter 1:4**.*

The book of Revelation, takes up the figure of the people of God represented as the bride - **Revelation 21:9** - of the Lamb (Jesus) - **John 1:29**.

- *"I heard...the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 'Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready' 8 And to her it was granted to be **arrayed in fine linen**, clean and bright, for the fine linen is **the righteous acts** of the saints. Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" - **Revelation 19:6**.*

In his Parable of the Wedding Feast, **Matthew 22**, Jesus compared believers with the wedding guests. Those who were first invited -

- **5** *"made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business."* Some of those who rejected the invitation of Jesus during his ministry, later **6** *"seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them"*. God then extended His invitation to the other nations, while *"he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city"* in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. Depicting in the parable all the believers who will be gathered after the return of Jesus, **11** *"the king came in to see the guests, and he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?'"* and had him ejected from the celebration.

What the wedding garment represents, as seen above, was, *"the righteous acts of the saints."* Cheering on the sidelines doesn't cut it, only getting actively in the game in cooperation with the other players. Jesus earlier declared, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* - **Matthew 7:21**.

- The first step in doing God's will is *"He who believes (the Gospel) and is baptized will be saved"* - **Mark 16:16**. Afterwards come *"the righteous acts"*, see Parable of the Sheep and Goats, in **Matthew 25**. On one side were the "sheep", also called "the righteous", and he said to them **34** *"Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me....inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'* Of the "goats", who didn't, he said, **46** *"these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*