

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.1

by Apostle John Eckhardt

It is difficult to understand the message of the Kingdom of God without understanding it in its First Century context. The rule of the King was coming to Israel which had been disobedient and rebellious since coming out of Egypt. Israel asked for an earthly king during the days of Samuel which was tantamount to rejecting their invisible king/

1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

Now the nation was confronted with the rule of the king which demanded REPENTANCE. Those who repented and believed the gospel would enter the kingdom, and those who continued in unbelief would be excluded from the kingdom. John, announced the kingdom, and mentioned the HOLY GHOST and FIRE.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

Those who believed who be baptized with the Holy Ghost and those who refused would experience the judgment of FIRE. The nation was facing a choice: either REPENT and finally submit to the KING, or REBEL and face JUDGMENT.

There was urgency in the preaching of Jesus and the apostles. This is why they were to preach only to Israel. Israel had to be the FIRST to hear the message. A REMNANT of JEWS believed and came into the KINGDOM. They became a part of the CHURCH. The rest faced JUDGEMENT with the destruction of JERUSALEM by the Roman armies in 70 A.D.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.2

by Apostle John Eckhardt

It is difficult to understand the Kingdom of God without understanding it's First Century context.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with JUDGMENT and with JUSTICE from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The kingdom would be established with JUDGMENT and JUSTICE. This JUDGMENT and JUSTICE would come through the AVENGING of the BLOOD of the PROPHETS upon ISRAEL. Israel's HISTORICAL REBELLION was evident in their REJECTION and KILLING of the PROPHETS, the COVENANT MESSENGERS of GOD. JESUS pronounced judgment upon THAT GENERATION.

Matt.23:35-36 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon THIS GENERATION.

This JUDGMENT is seen upon BABYLON who shed the blood of the PROPHETS and APOSTLES in the REVELATION.

BABYLON, THAT GREAT CITY, is FIRST CENTURY JERUSALEM.

Revelation 11:8- And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev.18:20- Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Rev.18:24- And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

In order to understand the Kingdom, we need to understand the theme of VENGEANCE and JUSTICE. The JUSTICE of God had arrived with the ARRIVAL of the KINGDOM. The KINGDOM was ESTABLISHED with JUDGMENT and JUSTICE. The JUDGMENT came after dire WARNINGS from Christ and the Apostles. The GOOD NEWS was that whoever CALLED upon the name of the LORD WAS SAVED. SALVATION came in the midst of JUDGMENT. We can better understand Peter's plea to ISRAEL.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, SAVE YOURSELVES from this UNTOWARD GENERATION.

THAT GENERATION was facing the judgment of the KING.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.3

by Apostle John Eckhardt

The WORD of the KINGDOM was a MYSTERY to many in ISRAEL. They had no understanding of this word and Satan was able to immediately come and take away the seed that was sown. Their lack of understanding was due to the HYPOCRISY and BLINDNESS of the NATION. This BLINDNESS was also JUDICIAL.

Isaiah 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Again this was the JUDICIAL NATURE of the KINGDOM. The KINGDOM was established with JUDGMENT and JUSTICE. (Isa.9:7).

Most in ISRAEL did not understand the NATURE of the KINGDOM. Most were looking for a NATURAL, POLITICAL KINGDOM. They attempted to MAKE JESUS KING BY FORCE.

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by FORCE, to make him a KING, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

The Pharisees asked Christ about the arrival of the Kingdom, and their question also revealed they MISUNDERSTOOD the NATURE of the KINGDOM. Jesus' answer reveals it's nature.

Luke 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh NOT with OBSERVATION.

They were LOOKING for an OBSERVABLE KINGDOM. They could not see the KINGDOM that was in their midst because it was SPIRITUAL. They were BLINDED to the KINGDOM and COULD NOT DISCERN IT.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.4

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Matt. 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. But he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John the Baptist mentions the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in connection with the ANNOUNCEMENT of the KINGDOM. This is because the two are related. The ARRIVAL of the KINGDOM would release the OUTPOURING of the SPIRIT. This is because the RULE of GOD over his people would be through the SPIRIT.

The KINGDOM is SPIRITUAL for SPIRITUAL people LED BY and FILLED with the SPIRIT. It requires the NEW BIRTH and INFILLING of the SPIRIT to live and walk in the KINGDOM. The KINGDOM Is not NATURAL, and is not for NATURAL people. The JEWS missed the KINGDOM because they looked at it in the NATURAL. John the Baptist warned them:

Matt.3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Physical, natural descent from Abraham did not qualify for the Kingdom because it is not a natural kingdom. The seed of Abraham are those of FAITH, not natural descent. We are the seed of Abraham through FAITH. The Kingdom is spiritual and requires an inward birth. This is why Jesus tells Nicodemus, a ruler (teacher) of the Jews that one must be born again. Nicodemus did not understand it because he thought naturally. A JEW is one circumcised in the heart, not in the flesh.

Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.5

by Apostle John Eckhardt

The KINGDOM and HOSPITALITY

Matthew 10:6-13 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

And when ye come into an house, salute it.

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

The Apostolic mission to Israel must be understood in the context of hospitality. Israel had a covenant obligation to love the stranger, and to love their neighbor. To mistreat strangers and neighbors was a covenant violation, and would release judgment. The mistreatment of the apostles by that generation brought judgment.

Israel's treatment in Egypt is an example of how not to treat foreigners. God rightfully judged the people of Egypt for this violation—and he would do the same to Israel if she were to follow Egypt's example.

When Jesus sends out the twelve as messengers of a new covenant in the Gospel of Matthew, he expects Israel to live up to her covenant obligations. However, when she does not extend hospitality to the apostles, she dishonors the first covenant and in the process spurns the one who sent them. At the judgment, she is reminded of her obligations as a host and her failure to meet them. It is then revealed to Israel just whom she has rejected. (Jeremy Lile)

The judgment in Matthew 25 should be seen in this context. The goats were the rebellious of that generation who mistreated the apostolic company sent by Jesus. Judgment came upon them just as it came upon Egypt. It is interesting that in Rev.11:8, the city where the Lord was crucified (Jerusalem) is also called Sodom and Egypt.

Matthew 25: 33-46 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Hospitality was so important that Lot would give his daughters to be ravaged by a mob rather than transgress the custom of hospitality.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.6

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Malachi 3:5

And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the STRANGER from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Among Israel's catalog of covenant breakers are those who fail to extend hospitality, an act that dishonored God and violated Torah. Matthew develops the themes set forth by the prophet Malachi which are: God would come to Israel in judgment (Mal 3:1). The messenger of the covenant would be sent beforehand to "clear the way" (Mal 3:1, 4:5) Among Israel's crimes was the failure to extend hospitality (Mal 3:5). Evildoers would be burned up like chaff (4:1). (Jeremy Lile)

The persecution of the apostles who came preaching the message of the kingdom was a violation of Torah and the commandment to love the stranger. It revealed the heart of the people who refused to submit to the law of the King. Their fathers had once been strangers in Egypt who suffered mistreatment, now they are guilty of the same violation. The arrival of John the Baptist was a precursor to the coming judgment. The persecution, rejection, and killing of the apostles reflected the heart of Israel, and their rejection of the kingdom. Those Jews who did receive the apostolic messengers were rewarded, and entered into the kingdom. Those who rejected them were judged and cast out of the kingdom.

The issue here is honor. Israel would dishonor the king by dishonoring his messengers and being inhospitable. The disciples were told to shake the dust from their feet. Judgment would come from the king upon those who mistreated his disciples. One of the principles of the kingdom is to honor the king and his messengers. Judgment came upon that generation who mistreated the ambassadors of the king. They repeated the same violation of their fathers who mistreated the prophets.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.7

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Did the kingdom come or is it coming? Are we still praying for the kingdom to come or has that prayer been answered?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS SPIRITUAL. This is one of the most important statements to understand concerning the kingdom. Many misunderstand the Kingdom because they misunderstand the nature of the kingdom. The kingdom of God is not physical. The kingdom had no physical boundaries or earthly city. The kingdom's citizens are not those born of the flesh, but those born of the Spirit. The Kingdom does not come with observation.

Marvin Jacobs states:

The Jews rejected Jesus as the Messiah because they looked for a physical king and a physical kingdom. The Sadducees in Matthew 22 erred in understanding the resurrection because they thought only in physical terms. Physical thinking caused Jesus' disciples to draw a wrong conclusion regarding His statement to beware of the leaven of the Sadducees and the Pharisees. Nicodemus had trouble with Jesus' statement that one must be born again to enter the kingdom. Nicodemus thought only in terms of a physical re-entry into his mother's womb and physically being born, but Jesus indicated that it was a spiritual rebirth. Please note that the writer is not saying that there was no physical obedience involved. Jesus said born of water and spirit. First Peter 3:21 says, "The like figure where unto baptism doth also save us. Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God." While the change of spiritual relationship is the important thing, a refusal to be obedient means that one's spirit is rebellious, and Jesus said this rebirth is a MUST to enter the kingdom.

As long as man thinks only in physical terms he cannot grasp the nature of the eternal kingdom, and therefore will draw many wrong conclusions regarding the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding that kingdom. It has caused many either to ignore or try to explain away many very clear and unavoidable time statements. If Christ's kingdom is a spiritual one, then one's first thought should be spiritual. Some make physical

applications to everything until forced to look to the spiritual. It really should be the other way around. If one finds apparent conflict in his understanding, it is probably because he is failing to see the spiritual and needs to spend some more time studying.

Jesus told Pilate in John 18:36-37, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence." Pilate asked, "Art thou a king then?" Jesus replied, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness of the truth." It is quite obvious that Jesus was indicating that his kingdom was spiritual and not physical.

In Luke 17:20-21, when asked when the kingdom would come, Jesus replied that, "the kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or Lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:50 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.8

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Dispensationalists teach that the kingdom, which was described and promised by the Old Testament prophets, was announced and offered to Israel at our Lord's first coming, but due to Israel's rejection of Christ, the kingdom was postponed and awaits future fulfillment.

Is this true? Has the kingdom been postponed? Did Israel reject the Kingdom?

Romans 9:5-7

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they ARE NOT all Israel, which are of Israel:

Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

They are not all of Israel, which are of Israel. These verses make it plain that there was a TRUE ISRAEL within ISRAEL. The seed was in ISAAC. This means it was after the SPIRIT and not the FLESH.

Romans 9:7-9

Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

The children of the promise did believe and receive the KINGDOM. They were known as the REMNANT.

Romans 9:27

Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a REMNANT shall be saved:

The promise of salvation and the kingdom was always to the REMNANT, and not to all the descendants of Abraham according to the flesh. This REMNANT came into the church, and entered the kingdom because they believed. The teaching that the kingdom was POSTPONED because ISRAEL rejected it is FALSE. The TRUE ISRAEL, REMNANT ISRAEL did accept the kingdom, and were SAVED. SALVATION could not come to the world unless it FIRST CAME TO ISRAEL. THE KINGDOM did COME and it is NOW

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.9

by Apostle John Eckhardt

The bible is a COVENANTAL book, and must be understood COVENANTALLY. The things given to John in the REVELATION were "AT HAND," and SOON TO COME TO PASS," when John received it. The FULLNESS of the NEW COVENANT and the KINGDOM was at hand. This includes Revelation 21.

Rev.21:4- And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The coming of the Kingdom would bring an end to the rule and reign of DEATH. DEATH ruled through SIN and the LAW. Death, sorrow, crying, and pain need to be understood in a covenantal, kingdom context. The FORMER THINGS also need to be understood in a COVENANTAL CONTEXT.

Tears, sorrow, and pain is connected with death.

Isaiah 25:8- He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Psalms 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Psalms 116:3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

Sin gave death its sting, and the Law gave sin its strength. The removal of the law removes the strength of sin, and thereby removes the sting of death. In other words, death does not have any sting for the believer who has been delivered from the law and its curse.

1 Cor.15:56-57- The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The coming of the Kingdom means the former things have passed away. The former things refers to the law and the sorrow of death under the law. The believer NEVER DIES.

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me SHALL NEVER DIE. Believest thou this?

Jesus was not referring to PHYSICAL DEATH. We die physically, but we have EVERLASTING LIFE. We have NOW what they had only in PROMISE under the OLD COVENANT.

We no longer live under the RULE of SIN, SORROW, CRYING, PAIN, and DEATH. We are now in the kingdom, and we live under the New Covenant. SORROW and SIGHING are GONE.

Isaiah 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

We have been ransomed and redeemed through the blood of the Lamb. We now obtain the joy of SALVATION. This is KINGDOM LIVING.

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.10

The Days of Vengeance

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Luke 21:22 For these be the DAYS OF VENGEANCE, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

It is difficult to understand the arrival of the Kingdom without understanding the DAYS OF VENGEANCE. According to the prophecy of Isaiah, the kingdom would be established with JUSTICE and JUDGMENT (Isa.9:7). This JUSTICE would be GOD'S VENGEANCE upon JERUSALEM for KILLING and MISTREATING the PROPHETS. Jesus predicted it would come on THAT GENERATION.

Matt.23:33-36 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

The BLOOD of the PROPHETS would be required of that GENERATION. Jesus called it the DAYS OF VENGEANCE, and said all things would be FULFILLED.

Moses prophesied that this would occur in the latter days of Israel in his song in Deut.32.

Deut.32:43- Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will AVENGE the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

The nations would rejoice at God's vengeance upon those who killed his prophets. This is none other than Jerusalem.

Matt.23:37- O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

God's vengeance comes in the book of Revelation upon Babylon.

Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Babylon is that great city where the Lord was crucified.

Revelation 11:8 - And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the GREAT CITY, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified

Revelation 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that GREAT CITY Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

In this city was the blood of PROPHETS.

Rev.18:24- And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

God's vengeance (justice) came on this city with its destruction by the Romans in A.D. 70. God's justice arrived with the kingdom, and praise comes to the nations.

Rev.19:1-6 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The VENGEANCE upon JERUSALEM (BABYLON) was a SIGN that THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH (THE KINGDOM).

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.11

Marriage Supper

by Apostle John Eckhardt

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb would be at the time of God's Vengeance upon Babylon. Jesus promised his disciples he would not drink from the fruit of the vine until he drank it in the Kingdom.

Rev.19:6-9 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

In order to understand the Marriage Supper of the Lamb we need to know it's timing. Notice in Matthew chapter 22 with the invitation to the Marriage given first to Israel.

Matthew 22:1-4

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

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

And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and ALL THINGS ARE READY: come unto the MARRIAGE.

The Marriage is connected to the Kingdom. The MARRIAGE WAS READY. Israel was invited first. When they rejected the invitation, the invitation went to the Gentiles (highways). Israel mistreated the messengers (apostles), and God sent his armies and burned up their city (Jerusalem, A.D 70)

Matt.6-7 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and BURNED up their CITY.

The invitation then went to the Gentiles.

Matt.22:8-10 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

The promise of Marriage was given to Israel through Hosea. This needs to be understood in the context of First Century Israel.

Hosea 2:18-20 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will BETROTH thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

I will even BETROTH thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.

God promised to betroth Israel through the New Covenant. This would be restoration, for the remnant who believed. Remarriage to Israel was God's promise to her at the end of the Old Covenant Age, and the establishment of the Kingdom. The Wedding was READY when the apostles gave the invitation, It came with the judgment upon Babylon (Jerusalem), and the vengeance upon Babylon for slaying the prophets (Rev.18-19)

One of the themes of Revelation is the judgment of putting away of BABYLON the HARLOT CITY (JERUSALEM), and the marriage of the NEW JERUSALEM (NEW COVENANT ISRAEL, the CHURCH)

Understanding the Kingdom Pt.12

by Apostle John Eckhardt

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the WORD of the KINGDOM, and UNDERSTANDETH IT NOT, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Mark 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and NOT UNDERSTAND; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

One of the problems with the Kingdom message was that MANY did NOT UNDERSTAND IT. Many were looking for an EARTHLY KINGDOM and MISSED the SPIRITUAL KINGDOM that JESUS came to bring. This is still a problem with many today: a lack of understanding of the TIMING and NATURE of the KINGDOM. The KINGDOM CANNOT be UNDERSTOOD by the CARNAL MIND. It cannot be ENTERED INTO or UNDERSTOOD APART from the HOLY SPIRIT. It takes SPIRIT REVELATION to comprehend the MYSTERIES of the KINGDOM.

Jesus consistently rebuked his disciples and that generation for their UNBELIEF and HARDNESS of HEART. They did not understand the PROPHETS and the KINGDOM they predicted. Their MISUNDERSTANDING of the KINGDOM and it's message is what caused them to MISS IT.

