

Your Kingdom Come -080808 – A New Day for Australia Banquet Vision and Betrothal invitation from Dr Hilary Moroney

Welcome to all guests on this historic day of 08.08.08 to come and meet with our Bridegroom Jesus Christ on this His special day. Standing and looking out over all the banqueting tables and guests in the Great Hall is a moment of great joy for me, to see the vision the Lord gave me in Jerusalem in 2006 fulfilled and come to fruition. There during worship, the Lord showed me many pictures that included this scene of white linen covered banqueting tables with colourful banners and dancers in the Great Hall of the Parliament with people smartly dressed and feasting, covenanting themselves to Jesus.

Vision

The Lord gave me the date clearly ‘August 8th’, (no year mentioned), and said; call it ‘Thy Kingdom Come,’ and then I heard; ‘the market place’. I had the sense of great celebration and rejoicing and was overwhelmed with the enormity of it all. As time has passed and I have prayed the Lord has brought it all to pass for His glory, gathering each person to come at this appointed time to meet with our Bridegroom Jesus, to covenant ourselves to Him as His Bride.

Betrothal Custom

In the ancient Hebrew culture, when a man saw a woman he desired to become his Bride, he would go to his father and ask his permission to marry her. If the father agreed, then he would hold a betrothal banquet, to which he would invite the lady whom the Bridegroom desired to be his Bride along with her father and attendants. At the feast the Bridegroom would woo his beloved and pledge his love and commitment to her, giving her a covenant agreement, negotiating the bride price he would be willing to pay and then sealing his pledge of betrothal to her by drinking from the cup of wine. He would then hand this cup he had drunk from to her, to drink also. If she responded and took the cup and drank from it, that was the sign to the entire company of her covenant agreement to the terms of marriage and this betrothal was binding on both the Bride and groom.

This is what Jesus did when he took the cup at the last supper, with his disciples at the Passover meal before he was crucified. It says in Mark 14:23-25

‘Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and they all drank from it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”’

It was the custom that the Bride and groom would then part for a year long time of separation. The Bride would return to her father’s house for a year of preparation, just as we read of in the book of Esther, when she was set apart and was devoted to becoming acquainted with the customs and priorities of her Bridegroom’s family. Often the Bridegroom would send his Bride-to-be, gifts of wedding garments and jewels to adorn her.

This was the stage of relationship that Joseph and Mary had entered into. They were betrothed to be married, and were living apart, when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and there was the immaculate conception of Jesus.

Christ ‘The Beloved’: ‘The Bridegroom’

Before going to the cross, Jesus said to his disciples in Jn 14:1-3 that he was going ahead of them to prepare a chamber in his father’s house. They would have understood what he meant, which was drawing from the custom that just as a Bridegroom prepares the place of intimacy to co-habit with his Bride, so Jesus would go ahead of them to His Father’s house to prepare the place for them to come to be with him as his Bride for eternity.

When they had received and drunk from the cup of betrothal that he had handed to them at the Passover meal, they had entered into agreement with heaven Jesus had needed his followers here on earth to come into agreement with Him and His father’s plans that had existed from creation, for him to be able to accomplish his father’s will at Calvary. So too, today on 08.08.08, we are coming into agreement with our Father and Bridegroom, for God’s purposes, will and destiny to be done, here on earth as it is in heaven in our day.

It is significant that at Gethsemane, Jesus cried out in Luke 22:42;

‘Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from me; nevertheless, not my will but yours be done,’

These are the very same words that a Bridegroom would have cried out to his father if he had found out that in the time of separation, his Bride had been unfaithful to him, requesting that the betrothal covenant be broken off. Yet, Jesus yielded to the will and honoured the authority of his heavenly Father, and he went to the cross for the joy set before him of the glorious Bride he would receive, after Calvary, for all eternity.

John the Baptist recognised and understood that Jesus was the Bridegroom come to fulfil the messianic prophecies in the old testament scriptures, as he exclaimed in John 3:28-31:

‘I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.’

Jesus himself, spoke to his disciples about his identity being the ‘Bridegroom’ in Matthew 9:15. This was in the context of explaining in parables how the new wine of the power of His Spirit could not be contained or put into old wineskins or old structures that would simply burst.

In Matthew 3:17 after Jesus had been baptised in the Jordan, and He'd seen the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descend upon him, we have understood the word of God saying:

'This is my beloved son with whom I am well please, but rather it was an announcing of: some literal translations do not say the Father's voice from heaven said

However in some more literal translations the Father's voice in affirmation from heaven says:

'This is "The Beloved", as in the terminology used of the 'Bridegroom,' the coming 'Messiah' who the scriptures foretell about. We are told that the Bridegroom is coming for a Bride who has made herself ready and is prepared. Marriage is the relationship God uses throughout His Word to demonstrate His passionate love and yearning to be in covenant relationship with his people. King Solomon prophesied about this love relationship between the Bride and the Bridegroom, in the Song of Songs.

In the New Testament, Paul the apostle understood this deep mystery as he wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:1-3, that he was jealous for the people 'for I have betrothed you to one husband,' to present them as a pure, devoted Bride to Christ.

Prayer

On this historic day of 08.08.08, the number of Jesus Christ and covenantal new beginnings, we celebrate this new day in God's Grace as we gather together at this banquet in the Great Hall of the Federal Parliament to Covenant ourselves back to God to be His people, responding to Him, agreeing for Him to be our God. We thank our Father, that with Jesus Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit, as one together in the Godhead, that He purposed for His children to become adopted as sons to return into relationship with Himself as their Father. This was Christ's gift to His Father. We also thank our heavenly Father that from the beginning of time He had purposed to honour and present to His Son, Jesus Christ the Bridegroom, a pure and victorious Bride.

May I encourage you that we as the Bride give all our worship and praise this night to Jesus Christ our soon coming Bridegroom, and so together, the Spirit and the Bride say 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come!'

Scroll of Betrothal

I would like to invite each person to find by their place setting a scroll, for you to keep to remember this night of your betrothal as the Bride to the Bridegroom, in preparation for His return. Let us read what God said to His people through the prophet Hosea in chapter 11:9, and 2:14-23.

Covenant

Tonight, we are thanking Jesus that he has paid the Bride price for us through His shed blood, by being our atoning sacrifice at Calvary. We are inviting you to join in unity with other followers of Jesus around this nation and the nations to take part in a fellowship meal of breaking bread together and drinking the cup at 8.00pm, on 08.08.08, in a time of Covenant Communion with God our Father and in Betrothal to Jesus our Bridegroom.

Together, we will proclaim that Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and our soon coming Bridegroom.

Signing the Covenant Book

You will then find pages of a covenant book being brought to your table on which is written the Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8b-12 New Covenant.

We invite you as the people of God on this historic occasion to sign in thankfulness for what Jesus Christ has done to fulfil these New Covenant requirements on our behalf, so that we can enter into the blessing of relationship with Him as our Bridegroom, and soon coming King, to rule with Him for eternity