

FUTURE GATHERINGS

For a narrator (N) and 2 readers

N – There are a number of future gatherings foretold in the Scriptures. We are going to look at some of them in this presentation, with 2 readers reading the Bible passages. We will begin with a scenario that Jesus described in Matthew 25.

1 – “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

2 – Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

1 – Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

2 – The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth; whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ ”

N – Those on the left hand of the King were called the wicked, people who had ignored him by ignoring the needy. The story concludes by saying, “They will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” The next passage, from 1 Thessalonians 4, describes a gathering that is meant to be encouraging. It could happen at any time!

1 – 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.

2 – 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 for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

N – The last readings are from the book of Revelation, this one from chapter 19. It includes an invitation to a wedding meal.

1 – Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 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.”

2 – 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.”

N – The last chapter in the Bible, Revelation 22, describes the focal point of Heaven, which will be our final gathering place. It ends with a general invitation to “Come!”

1 – Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

2 – No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

1 – The Spirit and the bride say,

1 & 2 – “Come!”

2 – And let those who hear say,

1 & 2 – “Come!”

1 – Let those who are thirsty come;

2 – and let all who wish take the free gift of the water of life.

N – Remember, that invitation is still open today. The Spirit is still saying “Come!” and so do we. TO WHOM do you come? Did you notice that the throne in Heaven belongs to God AND to the Lamb? The Lamb of God is Jesus, the one who died as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is to HIM you come. HOW do you come? You come just as you are, believing in Jesus, who said that whoever believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life.

Compiled for the September, 2011 “Scripture and Prayer with Verna and Friends”
worship service at Sky View

© August, 2011
Verna Kwiatkowski

www.vernakwiatkowski.com