

The **LAST** Generation

Prophecy Teaching Series

Pastor Dan Betzer / First Assembly of God / Fort Myers, Florida 2013
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1 **Matthew 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these**
2 **things be fulfilled.**

3 – Jesus Christ
4

5 Our study tonight concentrates around the coming Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This
6 event will be the grand “wedding reception” of Jesus (the Groom) and the Church (the
7 Bride of Christ).

8
9 It will take place not too long after the Rapture of the Church and the Judgment Seat of
10 Christ (where it will be determined if we have any rewards or not - remember *rewards*
11 *are not automatic with salvation!*) I. Corinthians 3 makes that truth very clear.
12

13 It is at the Marriage Supper that we bring our “trophies,” our “rewards,” to place them at
14 the feet of Jesus.
15

16 The question must be asked, “Will every follower of Jesus even want to face his or her
17 Lord minus any crowns to lay at His nail-pierced feet?” And, “Will every follower of
18 Christ even be invited to this grand event?” We will take a hard look at these questions
19 directly from the Word of God.
20

21 **Rev. 19:7-10**

22 **Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb**
23 **is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. [8] And to her was granted that she**
24 **should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the**
25 **righteousness of saints. [9] And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are**
26 **called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the**
27 **true sayings of God.**
28

1 As I have discussed with you on other occasions, a wedding in Jesus' day was quite
2 different from what we know today in our western culture. The entire proceedings were
3 divided into these sections:
4

5 1. The Betrothal (or engagement). This was often, if, indeed, not always arranged by
6 the fathers of the bride and groom, sometimes even before they were born. A contract
7 was submitted between the two fathers and it involved a dowry AND a commitment that
8 could be broken only by a divorce. (This is why Joseph was so torn when he learned
9 that his fiancé Mary was pregnant before they had ever come together: Matthew 1:18-25
10 **Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was**
11 **espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy**
12 **Ghost. [19] Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her**
13 **a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. [20] But while he thought on**
14 **these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying,**
15 **Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which**
16 **is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. [21] And she shall bring forth a son, and**
17 **thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. [22] Now**
18 **all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the**
19 **prophet, saying, [23] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son,**
20 **and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**
21 **[24] Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden**
22 **him, and took unto him his wife: [25] And knew her not till she had brought forth**
23 **her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.)**
24

25 In our case, God, the Father, has arranged for our union with Christ before the world
26 began. Ephesians 1:3-4 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
27 **who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: [4]**
28 **According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we**
29 **should be holy and without blame before him in love:**
30

31 When we accepted Jesus as our Savior we, in effect, became engaged to Him, to stay pure
32 and undefiled for Him until the "consummation day", which will be the Rapture.
33 This is what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote: 2 Cor. 11:2 **For I am**
34 **jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I**
35 **may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**
36

37 2. The second part of the wedding in those days was THE PRESENTATION. When it
38 came time for the wedding, the son would go to his fiancé's home to take her to the
39 ceremony and to his father's house.
40

1 (Today when we visit Israel, our people are often interested in what appear to be
2 unfinished homes of several stories - rebars sticking up on top of the buildings. That's
3 because when sons are married, they often bring their bride "home", where an additional
4 room or floor is added onto the building in which they will live. This fact gives new
5 light on John 14:1-4: **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also**
6 **in me. [2] In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have**
7 **told you. I go to prepare a place for you. [3] And if I go and prepare a place for you,**
8 **I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be**
9 **also. [4] And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.)**

10
11 In our case, the "presentation" will be when suddenly, without any more advance warning
12 than we have already received, Christ will come with trumpet sound and we will be
13 "presented" before the Father in Heaven.

14
15 3. The third part of the wedding was the "marriage supper." Or reception. The bride
16 was now moved out of her previous home. Now the groom gathers his friends to
17 introduce her and for the celebration to begin. (Matthew 22:1-5) **And Jesus**
18 **answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, [2] The kingdom of**
19 **heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,**

20
21 So the raptured believers will be with their Lord and the festivities will begin shortly.
22 But first - ah, but first -

23
24 1 Cor. 3:10-15

25 **According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I**
26 **have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed**
27 **how he buildeth thereupon. [11] For other foundation can no man lay than that is**
28 **laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold,**
29 **silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made**
30 **manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire**
31 **shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he**
32 **hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be**
33 **burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

34
35 What constitutes the "gold, silver and precious stones?" Those things we do on this
36 earth in the Name of Jesus motivated solely by our love for Him.

37
38 !! Why do we tithe? To get a tax break? Or because we love Jesus and the Bible tells
39 us clearly to do so?

1 !! Why do we attend church? Why do we witness? Why do we spend time with the
2 Lord? What causes us to do all these things?
3

On my very first Sunday as your pastor I was approached by a lady who informed me, "I am the soloist in this church. That's why I sing in the choir. If I could not sing the solos, I would not participate." When she learned she would be only "one" of the many soloists, she left the church. Now she may one day tell God that she "sang for Him." The truth is, "She sang for herself." That's the hay, wood and stubble - those things we do in the name of Christianity that are primarily for our own self-interests.

4 Now in the days of Jesus, the wedding was PRIMARILY for the man, the groom, NOT
5 the bride. Just so, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be for Jesus primarily, not the
6 saints. **THUS WE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO WEAR INTO THE EVENT
7 ANYTHING THAT WOULD DRAW ANY ATTENTION TO OURSELVES RATHER
8 THAN TO CHRIST. NOR CAN WE HAUL IN THERE ANYTHING WE DID FOR
9 OUR OWN SELF INTEREST, RATHER THAN FOR HIM. HENCE THE NEED FOR
10 THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

11
12 Now - here's the big question: **How to you think you would feel being ushered into
13 the Marriage Supper and being presented to Christ with nothing to lay at His feet
14 but ashes of your hay, wood and stubble?**

15
16 This brings us to Jesus' shocking story in Matthew 25 (part of the Mount Olivet discourse
17 on prophecy) of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish:)

18
19 Matthew 25:1-13

20 **Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their
21 lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. [2] And five of them were wise, and
22 five were foolish. [3] They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with
23 them: [4] But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. [5] While the
24 bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. [6] And at midnight there was a
25 cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. [7] Then all those
26 virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said unto the wise, Give
27 us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. [9] But the wise answered, saying, Not so;
28 lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy
29 for yourselves. [10] And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that
30 were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. [11] Afterward
31 came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. [12] But he answered
32 and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. [13] Watch therefore, for ye know
33 neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

1 Quite truthfully, you will find about as many applications of Jesus' story as you will find
2 commentaries. I suspect there are several ways to interpret this chapter. I can only tell
3 you what I believe, though I do not mean to imply that other concepts are not valid.
4

5 It is my feeling that this story relates to the Marriage Supper and the preceding Judgment
6 Seat of Christ. I feel that "the oil" in the lamps, or the lack of it, refers to what we will
7 have to lay at Jesus' feet. Once the Rapture takes place, there can be no more gathering
8 of earthly jewels (gold, silver or precious stones). We will either have something to
9 present to Christ – or we will not!

10
11 Now, if that is true, let me ask you this: As a follower of Christ, would you not be
12 embarrassed to be presented to your Lord, knowing you had nothing to present to Him or
13 lay at His feet? I don't think that every believer will be present at the Marriage Supper.
14 That does not mean they are not saved or have eternal life; but it would mean they miss
15 out on the celebration and the one-on-one presentation to our Lord.
16

17 Some years ago, my friend Gordon Jensen (who has given the church-world so many
18 grand songs) wrote one about the time we cast our crowns at Jesus feet based on
19 Revelation 4:10-11: Rev. 4:10-11 **The four and twenty elders fall down before**
20 **him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast**
21 **their crowns before the throne, saying, [11] Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive**
22 **glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure**
23 **they are and were created.** I thought the song was beautiful and recorded it on one of
24 my last albums. Listen and consider the words below:
25

26 When earth's short day is far behind
27 And Heaven's role complete
28 The One who saved us will say "Well done"
29 We'll cast our crowns at his feet
30

31 We'll cast our crowns at His nail-scarred feet
32 Our joy complete in His presence sweet
33 Eternity's greatest privilege will be
34 Casting our crowns at His feet
35

36 We'll soon forget life's troubled past
37 For now a golden street
38 Is leading us to where we all
39 Can cast our crowns at His feet.
40

1 We'll cast our crowns at His nail-scarred feet
2 Our joy complete in His presence sweet
3 Eternity's greatest privilege will be
4 Casting our crowns at His feet
5 Eternity's greatest privilege will be
6 Casting our crowns at His feet.

7
8 But what if...if we have no crowns to lay at His feet? England's great Queen Victoria
9 (who reigned longer than any English sovereign) once said to her chaplain, "How I wish
10 Jesus would come in my lifetime – so I could lay my scepter and crown at His feet!"

11
12 JESUS' WARNINGS ABOUT THE PROPER USE OF THE TALENTS AND GIFTS
13 HE HAS "LOANED" US

14
15 Matthew 25:14-30 [The Message]

16 "It's also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together
17 and delegated responsibilities. [15] To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another
18 two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left.
19 [16] Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master's investment.
20 [17] The second did the same. [18] But the man with the single thousand dug a hole
21 and carefully buried his master's money.

22 [19] "After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and
23 settled up with them. [20] The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he
24 had doubled his investment. [21] His master commended him: 'Good work! You did
25 your job well. From now on be my partner.'

26 [22] "The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his
27 master's investment. [23] His master commended him: 'Good work! You did your
28 job well. From now on be my partner.'

29 [24] "The servant given one thousand said, 'Master, I know you have high
30 standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances
31 for error. [25] I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place
32 and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'

33 [26] "The master was furious. 'That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live
34 cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the
35 least? [27] The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the
36 bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest.

37 [28] " 'Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. [29] And get
38 rid of this "play-it-safe" who won't go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter
39 darkness.' [30]

40

1 I preached on this passage last weekend. Here are just a few of my notes:

2
3 WHY DID THE FAITHLESS SERVANT CAUSE SUCH ANGER FROM HIS
4 MASTER? (Verse 25) "I was afraid I might disappoint you..." There it is - "I was
5 afraid...."

6
7 Of what? THAT I WOULD BE A DISAPPOINTMENT....

8
9 **□ TO BE RELIEVED OF SUCH FEAR...YOU HAVE A FOUNDATION -**
10 **SOME BASIS FOR BELIEVING FOR YOUR FUTURE. I CAN GIVE**
11 **YOU THAT FOUNDATION:**

12
13 Ephes. 2:10

14 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we
15 can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

16
17 The King James Version uses the word "workmanship" rather than "masterpiece." But
18 they mean essentially the same thing.

19
20 * MEN...YOU CAN BE AN INCREDIBLE HUSBAND AND FATHER...YOU CAN
21 BE THE SPIRITUAL HEAD OF YOUR HOME. YOU CAN BE MORE THAN
22 YOUR WIFE EVER DREAMED OF HAVING. WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE
23 GOD'S MASTERPIECE!

24
25 * WOMEN...YOU CAN BE THE PERFUMED ESSENCE OF LIFE ITSELF TO
26 YOUR HUSBAND, CHILDREN AND FAMILY. YOU CAN LIGHT UP THEIR
27 LIVES. WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE!

28
29 * CHILDREN...YOU CAN BECOME ADULTS IN DUE TIME THAT CAN BE
30 BLESSINGS TO YOUR FAMILY...YOUR WORLD...AND TO GOD HIMSELF.
31 WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE GOD'S MASTERPIECE.

32
33 **I didn't say that....God's Word said it.**

34
35 **Now....let's get very practical in this message:**

36
37 1. Not everyone has the same talents, abilities, resources.

38
39 Look again at our text today: God gave one fellow five talents....another two....and
40 yet another just one. BUT NOTE....IT WASN'T THE AMOUNT THEY WERE

1 GIVEN.....IT'S WHAT THEY DID WITH WHAT THEY HAD.

2
3 **So don't judge yourself by any one else.**

4
5 A pastor came to see me recently - very discouraged. He said, "What a great church
6 here in Ft. Myers. I only have about fifty people who attend."

7
8 I asked him, "How big is your community?" He replied, "About 500 residents." I had
9 to smile when I replied, "You are reaching 10% of your community. In order for this
10 church to equal that - since there hundreds of thousands in our area - First Assembly
11 would have to be averaging 50-100 thousand every Sunday in attendance.

12 **WHY....YOUR CHURCH IS MUCH LARGER THAN THIS ONE."**

13
14 You should have seen his countenance light up.

15
16 NOW UP TO THIS POINT IN MATTHEW 25 WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE
17 SECOND COMING OF CHRIST TO THIS EARTH WHICH FOLLOWS THE
18 TRIBULATION. THERE WILL BE A JUDGMENT OF THE WORLD'S CITIZENS
19 BY CHRIST HIMSELF - ON HOW THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET CONDUCTED
20 THEMSELVES DURING THE SEVEN-YEAR TRIBULATION:

21
22 Matthew 25:31-46

23 **When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him,**
24 **then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: [32] And before him shall be gathered**
25 **all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his**
26 **sheep from the goats: [33] And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats**
27 **on the left. [34] Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye**
28 **blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of**
29 **the world: [35] For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye**
30 **gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: [36] Naked, and ye clothed me: I**
31 **was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. [37] Then shall**
32 **the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed**
33 **thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? [38] When saw we thee a stranger, and took**
34 **thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? [39] Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison,**
35 **and came unto thee? [40] And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say**
36 **unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye**
37 **have done it unto me. [41] Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart**
38 **from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: [42]**
39 **For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no**
40 **drink: [43] I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not:**

1 sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. [44] Then shall they also answer him,
2 saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or
3 sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? [45] Then shall he answer them,
4 saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye
5 did it not to me. [46] And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the
6 righteous into life eternal.

7
8 Today's world would have a hard time comprehending Jesus as the coming Judge of the
9 nations (Gentiles). They would need only read one verse to change their concept:

10
11 John 5:26-27

12 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in
13 himself; [27] And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is
14 the Son of man.

15
16 My friend, this event is not going to be much fun for two classes of people: (1) Those
17 who came through the Tribulation still unsaved and lost and (2) those who treated the
18 Jews in appropriately. *There will not be one unsaved human being who will be allowed*
19 *to enter into the eternal Kingdom of God and the Millennium.*

20
21 Next Wednesday I want to devote most of the study to this subject: WHAT WILL
22 HAPPEN WHEN THE NATIONS OF EARTH MEET JESUS FACE TO FACE? What
23 drama! See you next week.