

Here Comes the Groom (Revelation and Riddles in Matthew 9:14-17)

1. Watch Jesus drop mysterious hints about his true nature.

ESV **Matt. 9:14** *Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"*

TORTURED AND TRIUMPHANT LOVE : HOW YAHWEH CAME, LEFT, RETURNED AND TRANSFORMED HIS PEOPLE

CHAPTER TITLES	1. TENDER BEGINNING	2. BETRAYAL AND PAIN	3. DIVORCE AND DEVASTATION	4. LONG ROAD BACK	5. ACHING AND FASTING	6. A SURPRISE RETURN AND RE-BETROTHAL	7. FEASTING, FASTING AND NEW FORMS	8. INDESCRIBABLE EUPHORIA
APPROX. DATE	1500-900 BCE (3,500 years ago)	899-600 BCE (2,900 years ago)	599-538 BCE (2,600 years ago)	539-439 BCE (2,500 years ago)	400 BCE-29 CE (2,400 years ago)	30-33 CE (2,030 years ago)	34 CE-2020 CE (Pentecost to the present)	Only He knows ?
KEY EVENT OR PROPHECY	God covenants and dwells with his people, filling the temple with his glory	Separation from God is the price of disobedience, yet his return is prophesied	Jerusalem and Temple decimated and the people are deported	The Exiles return in waves and rebuild the Temple, but the glory is missing	The promise of Yahweh's dramatic return is uttered again but still unfulfilled	Yahweh arrives in the person of his Son, Jesus the Messiah, never again to depart	Despite the ascension of King Jesus, he's perpetually with us by his Spirit	The Royal Bridegroom, Jesus, appears bodily and dwells with us forever
SCRIPTURE	1 Kgs. 8:10-11 <i>...the priests could not minister because of the cloud, <u>the glory of the LORD</u> filled the house of the LORD.</i>	Isa. 62:4 <i>You shall no more be termed <u>Forsaken</u>...as the <u>bridegroom</u> rejoices over the <u>bride</u>, so shall your God rejoice over you.</i>	Jer. 52:13 <i>And he <u>burned</u> the house of the LORD, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem;</i>	This theme of God's remoteness runs through the Prophets and other Jewish books written during this period.	Mal. 3:1-2 <i>And the Lord whom you seek <u>will suddenly come to his temple</u>...But who can stand when he <u>appears</u>?</i>	Matt. 1:23 <i>...they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, <u>God with us</u>"); 28:20 <i>...And behold, <u>I am with you always</u>, to the end of the age."</i></i>	1Pet. 1:8 <i>...Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and <u>rejoice</u></i> Matt. 5:4 <i>Blessed are those who <u>mourn</u>...</i>	<small>ESV</small> Rev. 19:7 <i>...Let us <u>rejoice</u> and <u>exult</u> and give him glory, for the <u>marriage</u> of the Lamb has come, and his <u>Bride</u> has made herself ready</i>

ESV **Matt. 9:15a** *And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?"*

Big Idea: The long-promised return of Yahweh, the Bridegroom-King, is being accomplished through Jesus.

ESV **Matt. 9:15b** *...The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.*

ESV **Matt. 9:16** *No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made.*

ESV **Matt. 9:17** *Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."*

2. Our Teacher implies that his disciples will sew colorful, elastic carrying containers.



What is Bayshore Christian Ministries? BCM rocks! They equip east-of-Bayshore youth to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders.

What's "Hope & A Future: Bayshore Christian Ministries' Virtual Fundraising and Vision Event?" It's a chance for us as a church family to get the inside scoop on how BCM equips east-of-Bayshore youth to grow spiritually, gain life skills and develop as leaders so that they can have hope and a future. At the event, they will be sharing stories of how, even during COVID-19, BCM youth are becoming active Christ followers with hope, purpose and marketable skills who give back to their communities.

When is "Hope & A Future"? Sunday, October 25 from 6:30-7:30 PM.

Why should I register by TODAY, OCT. 11? So you can get a free gift in the mail! If you register *after* today, you can still come, but you won't get the packet. Hey, everyone loves to get fun deliveries from the U.S. Postal Service!

How do I register? Just visit www.bayshore.org/ and click on "Join Us for Our Virtual Event!" Be sure to click "Darren" as your host when you get the option.

What else? Darren will host a "Watch Party" at 5:45 PM on Zoom. We can learn a little more about BCM before the program starts.

3. Meet Larry Walters, who will share about modern disciples who are taking Jesus' teaching to heart.



FaithTech is a global organization helping Christians use their faith and skills to build God's Kingdom. Their Silicon Valley chapter is hosting a free, virtual hackathon October 16-18, and would love for you to attend or spread the word! The theme is "Taking the whole Gospel to the urban core." The goal is to develop connections and start projects which will leverage technology for urban missions, which involves all of us! Participants are desired from various backgrounds and skillsets, not just those in "tech." Please find registration info and more details here: <http://www.hacksv.faith/>. For questions, contact the universally loved and admired Larry Walters at lswalters@outlook.com.

Questions for groups, families and individuals

1. Review the chart on the front called *Tortured and Triumphant Love: How Yahweh Came, Left, Returned and Transformed his People*. Review each "chapter" and get a sense of God's longsuffering and centuries-long love that ultimately triumph over our rejection. What does this history teach you about the character of God?
2. By talking in "bridegroom" terms to John's disciples, what is Jesus communicating to these people who knew the ancient prophecies and promises? Why so indirect?
3. It's easy for believers to fall into "TPE," that is, traditional, predictable, expected forms of worship, discipleship and evangelism. But new forms of devotion to and extension of the good news are necessary in every generation. Disciples must be "DIV," that is, diverse, inventive and venturesome in their methods. How do you respond?
4. We didn't have time to talk about Chapter 8, "Indescribable Euphoria." What happens in it? How will it open up to a new book, but one without any sorrowful pages?