

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You wanted to know to which class the man who did not have on a wedding garment belonged in the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14). The three classes you mentioned were: the class that consecrated and then falls away to second death, the great multitude spiritual class, and the restitution class who never really consecrated and will therefore have an opportunity for salvation during the Millennial Kingdom.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are invited, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:11-14)

The absence of the wedding garment is a crucial point in this parable. A robe was necessary in order to attend the wedding. The unrobed guest had accepted the call and entered the banquet hall, but he was not wearing (or had not “put on” [Strong’s #1746]) a proper garment. The Apostle Paul gives us the meaning to the expression “put on.” “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27) Many that are called by God respond by consecrating to righteous living and receive John’s baptism. However, they do not go on to full consecration, which entails sacrifice, or, “putting on” Christ. The guest had willfully chosen not to make a complete consecration of sacrifice and, therefore, did not belong at the wedding banquet and was thrown out into the darkness. We believe that being cast out into the darkness symbolizes being expelled from the privileges enjoyed and the light and blessings afforded this favored class. The outer darkness is the world, nominal Christianity and confusion. The ultimate consequence of not responding to the call, and not putting on a wedding garment is “weeping and gnashing of teeth,” illustrating deep heartbreaking sorrow and anguish coupled with consternation, anger and pain due to a great loss. We believe that “weeping and gnashing of teeth” is to occur in the Kingdom, after our Lord’s return and the Church is complete. Only in the Kingdom on earth will those who were called realize the great privilege they rejected.

The term “weeping and gnashing of teeth” appears six times in Matthew and one time in Luke. In the Luke account (Luke 13:22-28) Jesus was speaking in particular to the leaders of the Jewish nation. (“There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the [earthly] kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out [not in a position of leadership].” (Verse 28) (The Jewish leaders could have had a position of leadership in heaven. However, Jesus says that they will not even have a position of leadership in the future kingdom on earth.)

The second account where the term “weeping and gnashing” appears (Matthew 8:5-12) is a clear reference to Israel as a nation being rejected as the heavenly seed because she rejected her Messiah. The faithful centurion is an illustration that the Gentiles would replace the Jewish nation. Both the first and second accounts show us the dispensational aspect of the weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The next four accounts (Matthew 22:8-14; Matthew 25:24-30; Matthew 13:37-43; and Matthew 13:47-50) are all Gospel Age parables and are progressive in nature. The last mention of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 24:44-51) is found in our Lord’s great prophecy of his return. For more information on the above scriptural accounts we would be happy to send you notes from a discourse Bro. Rick Suraci gave at a convention.

To which class did the man who was not wearing his wedding garment belong? He belonged to the restitution class on earth because he never made the necessary covenant of sacrifice needed to be part of the heavenly class. In fact, we believe that in each instance where “weeping and gnashing of teeth” appears it refers to the restitution class.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio