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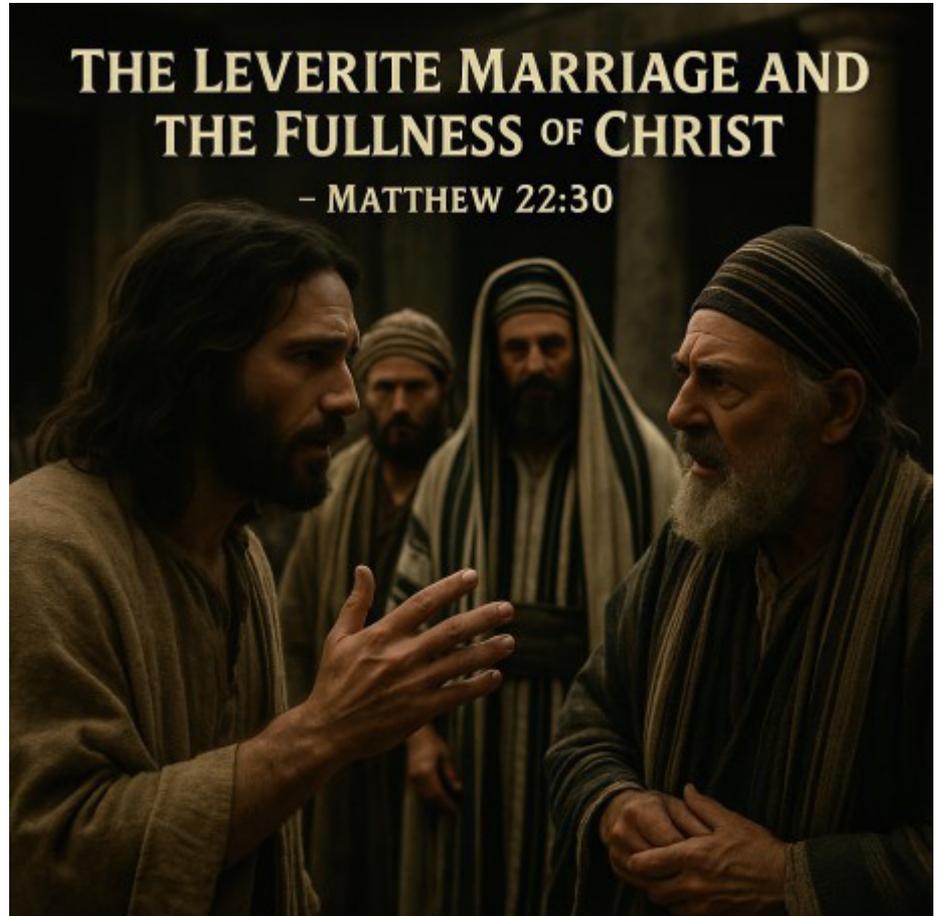
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The Leverite Marriage and the Fullness of Christ – Matthew 22:30



By Dan Maines

The Leverite Marriage and the Fullness of Christ – Matthew 22:30

Matthew 22:30

For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

† The Sadducees came to Jesus with a question about the Leverite marriage law (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). This law commanded that if a man died without children, his brother was to marry the widow to raise offspring in his brother's name. They

thought they could trap Jesus by presenting a scenario where a woman married seven brothers in succession.

† Their question was meant to expose what they believed was an absurdity in the doctrine of resurrection. They denied the resurrection and sought to discredit it. But Jesus' answer revealed their ignorance of the Scriptures and the power of God.

† Jesus declared that in the resurrection there is no marriage as we know it. Those who attain to that age are like the angels of God, not because they lose their identity or become bodiless spirits, but because the covenant purpose of earthly marriage is fulfilled. Marriage was a shadow pointing to Christ and His Church. When the new covenant kingdom came in its fullness, the need for that shadow ended.

Fulfillment in Christ

† Paul explains in Ephesians 5:31-32 that marriage points to the great mystery of Christ and His Church. The Levirate law protected the family name and inheritance within Israel until the promised Seed arrived (Galatians 3:16). Once the true Bridegroom came and gave Himself for His bride, the old covenant structures were no longer necessary.

† The resurrection Jesus speaks of is not about fleshly procreation but about covenant life in Him. By AD 70, the old covenant age ended, and the true marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7) was consummated. Believers became part of the eternal family where death and earthly lineage no longer define inheritance.

† Jesus' words do not mean we become immaterial or cease to be human. They mean that in the age of the fulfilled kingdom, the covenantal purpose of marriage is complete. We share in His eternal life, where physical reproduction is no longer the

means of building God's people.

How It Applies to Us Today

† We live in the reality of that fulfilled kingdom. Our identity and inheritance are secure in Christ, not in earthly bloodlines.

Marriage is still a gift for companionship and witness on earth, but it is no longer a covenant requirement for preserving a family name.

† This truth frees us from fear about earthly status. Whether single, married, widowed, or childless, every believer stands complete in Christ. Our worth is not measured by family connections but by the eternal union we share with the Lord.

† It also reshapes how we view family. While we cherish our natural households, we recognize the greater family of God that spans nations and generations. Fellowship in Christ becomes the highest bond, one that death cannot break.

† Knowing that covenant marriage has been fulfilled keeps our hope anchored. We do not wait for another age or another covenant. We already live in the kingdom where the Bridegroom reigns and where the new creation is our present reality.

Historical and Scriptural Reinforcement

† The Sadducees accepted only the Torah and rejected the Prophets and Writings. This explains why Jesus quoted Exodus 3:6 to them (Matthew 22:31-32). God's declaration to Moses--"I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"--proves that the patriarchs were alive to Him, demonstrating the certainty of resurrection life.

† Hosea 2:19-20 foretold a time when God would betroth His people to Himself forever in righteousness and faithfulness. This prophecy finds its fullness in Christ, showing that the true covenant marriage was always God joining Himself to His

people, not the perpetuation of earthly family lines.

† Early Jewish writings also reflect an expectation of a transformed life beyond the Mosaic order. The Dead Sea Scrolls (for example, 1QS 4:22-23) speak of an everlasting community where death is no more, paralleling Jesus' teaching that resurrection life transcends natural marriage.

Further Scriptural Links

† Daniel 12:2-3 describes many awakening to everlasting life and shining like the stars. Jesus' words in Matthew 22:30 about being like angels echo this promise, showing that the righteous share the glory of the heavenly host in the fulfilled kingdom.

† 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 explains that the resurrection body is spiritual, imperishable, and in the image of the heavenly Man. This complements Jesus' statement that covenant heirs are like angels, emphasizing transformation without loss of personal identity.

† Hebrews 12:22-24 reveals that believers have already come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, and to myriads of angels. This directly parallels the idea that in the resurrection we join the heavenly assembly where earthly marriage no longer defines fellowship.

† Isaiah 54:5 calls the Lord the Husband of Israel, anticipating the ultimate union of God with His people that replaces earthly marriage as the covenant sign.

† Revelation 21:2 shows the holy city as a bride adorned for her husband, sealing the picture of the church as the true and eternal spouse of the Lamb.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Matthew 22:23-33; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Ephesians 5:31-32; Galatians 3:16; Revelation 19:7

† Exodus 3:6; Hosea 2:19-20; Daniel 12:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49; Hebrews 12:22-24; Isaiah 54:5; Revelation 21:2

† Dead Sea Scrolls 1QS 4:22-23

† Josephus, Antiquities 4.8.23 (background on Levirate customs)

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