

# An Invitation

*"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.'"*

*Matthew 25:34 (NIV)*

**T**oday Susan and I received a wedding invitation (via [www.evite.com](http://www.evite.com)) and we are excited to reply, "Yes!" These two dear people mean a great deal to us. I have known the groom for many years and the bride for a few weeks.

Having them over for dinner recently gave us opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the bride. We heartily agree with the groom's choice and his very complimentary descriptions of her prior to our first meeting. They are blessed to have each other and we are certain they shall have many happy times as man and wife.

However, no invitation to any event is worthy of comparison to the invitation referred to in our verse for today. The Lord Jesus was describing an invitation extended to every child of God when He comes in His glory to judge and receive to Himself His people of all ages. From eternity past their inheritance was ready and waiting for them to claim it.

As I thought of this eternal plan of God arranged—before

a creative word was uttered—my mind immediately went to Ephesians 1:3-5 (NIV) where we read,

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—"

Everything to do with our redemption was signed sealed and ready for delivery before Adam drew his first breath. Revelation 13:8 refers to our Lord as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. This means all of the Lord's people are as sure of heaven as though they were already there. As Augustus Toplady once wrote,

"More blessed but no more secure the glorified spirits in heaven."

While our salvation was cre-

ated in eternity, yet it was applied to us in time. How we should rejoice that such a holy God has made our salvation certain before the time when we so desperately needed it. Let us be in awe and amazement at this great salvation. Let us be confident as we draw near in worship, prayer and praise that our eternal God secured our redemption in this manner. Yes, the Lord even gave us the gifts of faith and repentance by which this invitation was accepted and in which we rejoice now and will rejoice for all eternity. We are as secure as though in possession of our inheritance today.

The works which his goodness began, the arm of his strength will complete; his promise is yea and amen, and never was forfeited yet. Things future, nor things that are now, nor all things below or above, can make him his purpose forgo, or sever my soul from his love.

William Cowper

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