



The idea of such a wedding goes back, of course, to the ancient Jewish tradition of Israel's as YHWH's bride – wooed in the wilderness, married at Sinai, unfaithful for many generations and eventually cast away, but then wooed and won all over again in a covenant renewal that would result in the renewal of the whole creation (Isaiah 54—55). The whole of the Song of Songs, though at one level simply a spectacular poem of erotic love, has been seen by Jewish and Christian commentators alike as an allegory of the love between God and his people (for Christians, Christ and his people). Now this glorious theme comes to a spectacular completion, and is joined with another ancient theme of celebration: God's great feast, the banquet to which he will invite all and sundry (Isaiah 25.6–10) (169).

1. Why do you think the image of a wedding comes up repeatedly in scripture?
2. How can we ready the bride (the Church of Christ) to be beautiful for the wedding day?



