

The End Times
The Ten Virgins
Matt 25.1-13

[We have discovered that in “*the things which are*” (Rev 1.19) that the Churches,]

- [Left their first love – Ephesus (Rev 2.1-7)]
- [Were severely persecuted – Smyrna (Rev 2.8-11)]
- [Held the Doctrine of Balaam, Filthy lucre and greed – Pergamos (Rev 2.12-17)]
- [Sought the Doctrine of Jezebel, and Nicolaitans – Thyatira (Rev 2.18-29)]
- [Had a name but were dead – Sardis (Rev 3.1-6)]
- [Kept the Word of God – Philadelphia (Rev 3.7-13)]
- [Were lukewarm due to riches and Christ outside the Church – Laodicea (Rev 3.14-22)]

[While all of these conditions existed in the first century Church of Christ there were **Overcomers** in all of these Churches; overcomers are always born-again Christians. What was present in the first century Church is surely present in our contemporary Churches today, and yet we are all called to be overcomers]

[To confirm that we are understanding the seven Churches of the Revelation correctly we will now look at the Kingdom Parables of the Gospel of Matthew and discover the prophetic confirmations given by our Lord Jesus Christ concerning the Church age.]

A. The Consummation of the Church Age [- **Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto . . . (vs 1)]**

Matt 24.3 The word “**then**” connects chapter 25 to chapter 24 of Matthew.

*[Matthew 24:3 - And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? **and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**]*

[In answering the disciples our Lord prophetically said,]

- [There would be deceivers (Matt 24.4, 11)]
- [There would be persecution (Matt 24.9)]

- [There would be apostasy (Matt 24.10)]
- [There would be “Great Tribulation” (Matt 24.21)]
- [There would be a Rapture (Matt 24.22)]
- [Then would be the Second Advent (Matt 24.27-31)]
- [The Word of God will Endure (Matt 24.35)]

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Matt 24.35

[Matthew 24:35 - Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.]

[Our Lord in teaching about the end times states that the Word of God will be present and perfectly preserved at the end of the age. This King James Bible is the Word of God for us today.]

[Matthew 24:35-51 ³⁶But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. ³⁷But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, ³⁹And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ⁴⁰Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. ⁴¹Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.]

[What is this? This is the Rapture undeniably described!]

[⁴²Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. ⁴³But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. ⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. ⁴⁵Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁷Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. ⁴⁸But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; ⁴⁹And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; ⁵⁰The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, ⁵¹And shall cut him

asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.]

[Matthew 25:1 - **Then** shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, . . .]

[After all is said and done, this is what shall appear.]

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A. The Consummation of the Church Age

B. The Constitution of the Church - Ten Virgins (vs 1-13; cf Matt 25.31-46).

1. The Troop [- The similarities between these ten virgins.]

Psalm 119.105

- a. They Took lamps (vs 1; Ps 119.105; 2 Cor 11.2; John 1.1-,14) [- "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, **which took their lamps, . . .**"]

[Lamps are often a symbol of the Word of God in Scripture]

[**Psalm 119:105** Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.]

[Clearly the **bridegroom** is Jesus Christ, who is the Word (2 Cor 11.2; John 1.1-2,14).]

[2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: **for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**]

- b. They Traveled (vs 1) [- ". . . and went forth to meet the bridegroom."]

[Indicates sincerity, desire, and intent.]

[All Ten virgins are going together.]

[Their desire is to meet the bridegroom and enter the wedding with Him.]

- c. They Tired (vs 5; 1 Thes 5.4-8) [- "While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept."]

1 Thess 5.4

[**Slumbered** - nustazo {noos-tad'-zo}, 1) to nod in sleep, to sleep; to be overcome or oppressed with sleep; to fall asleep, drop off to sleep. 2) to be negligent, careless: of a thing i.e. to linger, delay.]

[**Slept** - katheudo {kath-yoo'-do}, 1) to fall asleep, drop off to sleep. 2) to sleep; 2a) to sleep normally. 2b) euphemistically, to be dead 2c) metaph. to yield to sloth and sin, to be indifferent to one's salvation]

[May indicate **apathy and lethargy**]

[We should not be caught sleeping, but should be found watching instead.]

[1 *Thessalonians 5:4–8* - But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are **not of the night, nor of darkness.** ⁶Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. ⁷For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. ⁸But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.]

d. **They Trimmed (vs 7)** [- "*Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.*"]

[Trimming the lamp is the act of actually lighting the lamp.]

[They all try to light their lamps when the call comes. Only lamps with oil will light and stay lit.]

2. **The Ticket (vs 2-3, 10)** [- *And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.* ³*They that were foolish took their lamps, **and took no oil with them:** . . . And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*

[The only difference between the wise and the foolish is the possession of **the oil.**]

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- They all Traveled – They went to meet
- They all Tired
- They all Trimmed their lamps

[Without the oil nothing else matters. The virgins with no oil are sent to find oil, which they cannot buy. The foolish virgins are not allowed to enter the marriage feast.]

[So the question arises what is the oil.]

3. The Test - The necessity of the oil.

The oil is not based upon,

Matt 7.21

- **Their religious Principles** [- Lamp - Knowledge or doctrine.]

[To know is not to receive (James 2.19).]

[James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.]

[Many shall say (Matt 7.21-23)]

*[Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.]*

- **Their religious preoccupation** [- went - Sincerity.]

[Sincerity never got anyone into heaven nor into a right relation with God.]

[You may be sincere, but you also may be sincerely wrong.]

[You may have a migraine headache, and may sincerely seek to rid yourself of your headache, but if you take your sugar pill, for diabetes, instead of aspirin or Tylenol is won't do you any good.]

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- **Their religious practices** [- slumbered and slept - tradition.]

[Religious practices won't get you to heaven either, as a matter of fact religious practices will put you to sleep if they become repetitive.]

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b. The oil is based upon:

1) An Unseen element (vs 8; Eph 1.13-14)

Eph 1.13

[a) Oil in the Bible is often considered a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Isa 6.1; Psalm 23.5; Luke 4.17).]

[b) We receive the Holy Spirit at our salvation (Eph 1.13-14) - The earnest of the Spirit.]

[Ephes. 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.]

2) An Unprecedented gift (vs 9-10; Rom 8.14; 6.23; Eph 2.8-9) [- Can not be bought.]

[a) The oil of the Holy Spirit in our lamps, or the presence of the Holy Spirit with in us is an indication of our salvation.]

[Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.]

[b) Christians receive the Holy Spirit at salvation. He is a gift for God (Rom 6.23; Eph 2.8-9)]

[Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.]

[Ephes. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9Not of works, lest any man should boast.]

3) An **Unwavering presence** (vs 10; **Rom 8.14-16**; Matt 5.14-16; 1 Cor 2.12; 1 John 5.11-13) [- **The bridegroom.**]

[a] The witness (Rom 8.14-16)]

*[Romans 8:14-16 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶**The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:]***

[b] The brilliance (Matt 5.14-16; 1 Cor 2.12) - Through the oil of the Holy Spirits our lamps can be and are illuminated. Our understandings are also enlightened.]

[Matthew 5:14-16 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.]

[1 Cor. 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.]

[c] The litmus test of Christianity (1 John 5.11-13) - The indwelling presence.]

[1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³These things have I written

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unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.]

4. **The Timing (vs 10-11; 2 Thess 2.7) [-**
"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us."]

[a. When the door closes, grace removes.]

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[2 Thes. 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.]

[Grace Refused becomes Grace Removed]

C. The Converted Christian [- make provision for your soul.]

[1. Is there oil in your lamp?]

[a. A lamp without oil is useless.]

[b. An impractical, unusable Word is useless.]

[c. Knowing the word of God without the illumination of the Holy Spirit is useless.]

["It's one thing to know the word, it's quite another thing to know the Savior.]

[2. An untested lamp is untrustworthy - will the wick burn?]

[a. A burning wick provides light - An evidence of usefulness.]

[3. A properly lit lamp produces a change]

[a. From darkness to light.]

[b. It will reveal your heart and nature

[c. **Illustration:** An old sculptor had among other pieces of work in his shop the model of a beautiful cathedral. It was covered with the dust of years, and nobody admired it, although it was an exact model of a fine cathedral, inside and out. One day the attendant placed a light inside the model, and its gleam shone through the beautiful stained-glass windows. Then all stopped to admire its beauty. The change that was brought by the light within was marvelous.]

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