

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS
Matthew 25:1-13

by Joseph Edwards II

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto TEN virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 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. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This is another of the “Kingdom of Heaven is like” parables which teach on certain aspects of the Pathway to Salvation.

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto TEN virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

The parable begins by showing us Ten Virgins. The spiritual term Virgins symbolizes all believers who have been called out from the world.

2Cor 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.

When the parable begins, all Ten Virgins have received the Early Rain of the Spirit, but not the Latter Rain. The number TEN represents completeness. During the parable, all Ten Virgins will be shown to have been made “worse than the first” (**Mat 12:43-45**). This devolution of their spiritual nature will complete their carnality and they will become a Man of Sin.

The lamp which all Ten Virgins carry represents the Word of God (Christ/Truth) and the light which the lamp gives off represents the Law:

Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Prov 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

With the light of the Law lighting the pathway, all Ten Virgins will be led to Christ.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Mat 25:2 And FIVE of them were Wise, and FIVE were Foolish.

The parable continues with two additional symbols: FIVE Wise Virgins and FIVE Foolish Virgins.

The number Five is a symbol for how we relate to God.

There are two ways by which mankind can approach God; one is by our own works and the other way is by Faith.

The Five Foolish Virgins represent those who have been called out but have not been chosen to be saints. They will only approach Christ by their own works in this age. They will remain under the Law until their physical deaths.

The Five Wise Virgins represent those who have been called out and chosen to be saints. They will for a time approach Christ by their own works alongside the Five Foolish Virgins but they will eventually change their approach to Faith.

The number of days the Five Wise Virgins will spend under the Law will be “shortened” because they will be harvested into the Kingdom of Heaven EARLY. They are the First Fruits of Christ’s harvest of mankind. The Five Wise Virgins are the only ones who will be saved in this present age.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The parable continues with:

Mat 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

While all Ten Virgins wait for the Bridegroom to come a second time (the first time was when the betrothal was made at the Early Rain), they all slumber & sleep and do not keep watch. The phrase “slumbered and slept” represents the time when all Ten Virgins are spiritually blind and spiritually dead. At this time, the Wise Virgins are spiritually no different from the Foolish

Virgins. As a result of this worsened spiritual state, they have all become a Man of Sin (2Thes 2:1-4).

However, verse 4 tells us that the Five Wise Virgins carry an extra flask of oil. This extra oil represents the anointing of the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This extra oil will fill their lamps with the Spirit of the Law and will light their way under the New Covenant of Grace through faith.

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Midnight represents the darkest part of a called out believer's spiritual blindness when they are under the full measure of Satan's influence and have become a Man of Sin. When the call goes out to announce the Bridegroom's approach, all Ten Virgins hear the call and trim their lamps. This is the same call that was made by John the Baptist to the Nation of Israel and is the same call being made now by converted Elect believers. The purpose of the call is to tell the Wise Virgins to repent from their works and to make the pathway straight for the Lord to travel. With their repentance and extra oil, the Wise Virgins are "ready" for the return of the Bridegroom and the Marriage of the Lamb.

Note: This time of waiting for the Bridegroom to return was "typed" by the 120 Jewish Elect who waited in the upper room. Then, on the Day of Pentecost, they received the Latter Rain of the Spirit and were made ready for the Marriage of the Lamb (Acts 1:12-15). After their spiritual blindness was healed, the Bridegroom returned and took them to the wedding.

When the Ten Virgins hear "**the voice of one crying in the wilderness**" (Luke 3:4) and "**come out of her my people**" (Rev 18:4), they all rise up from their slumber and trim their lamps. However, since the Foolish Virgins do not have any extra oil, they are not ready for the Bridegroom to arrive. As their lamps begin to go out, they have to turn back to buy more. When the Bridegroom arrives, the Wise Virgins (who have the extra oil) are the only ones there to meet Christ. The Latter Rain of the Spirit (extra Oil) has made them an acceptable chaste virgin again. The Wise Virgins will then travel with the Bridegroom to the wedding where they will be born again as a child of God.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Since the Foolish Virgins are forced to “turn back”, they will remain under the Law and will die in their sins.

This time of turning back is presented in **John 6:66** when some of Christ’s disciples turned back from following Christ after hearing the cry of John the Baptist.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

They, too, lacked the extra oil for their lamps.

The Five Foolish Virgins simply were not chosen from the foundation of the world to be included in the harvest of First Fruits. Without the extra oil, they had no choice but to turn back.

Mat 25:10 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. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Upon the Foolish Virgins’ resurrection from the grave, they will be rejected by Christ and find that their portion is going to be with the unbelievers. This event commences the Day of the Lord for them. At that time, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will be judged in wrath.

Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire.

The Foolish Virgins were not blessed to have their days under the Law and as a Man of Sin shortened (**Mat 24:22**) As a result, they will have to wait until the end of the harvest season (final age) for their salvation. They will suffer “loss” and will not have life in the Kingdom of Heaven during the ages. But they will be saved; “yet so as by fire”.

1Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abides which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during, but the righteous to life age-during.'

When the Great Day of the Harvest (Feast of Tabernacles) finally arrives, this call will go out:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

At that time, the remaining harvest of mankind will be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven.

With this harvest, the Kingdom of Heaven will now contain “all” who died in Adam:

1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Christ's reign will come to an end and God will be ‘all in all’.

SUPPLEMENTAL FORUM POST

Dear J _____

You said:

Yes I am fully aware of the traditional teaching of this parable/prophecy.

If you would carefully read what I presented, you would see that it is not the "traditional teaching". In fact, it is far from it. My understanding is part of the Great Mystery of Christ and His church (**Eph 5:32**).

You said:

We are told who the Bride is. It is not the virgins. In fact, where in Matt 25 does it say the virgins are Brides? It does not say that at all - that is an assumption due to a total lack of understanding of Scripture. It is an assumption in total error as I have demonstrated with Scripture.

The virgins are those who have been "betrothed" to Christ. That happens at the time of the Early Rain when an unbeliever is "called out from the world".

Jewish wedding customs are clearly presented in the parable. When a man proposes to a woman (virgin), he leaves to prepare a home for her. When the room is ready, He returns suddenly and the call goes out that he is returning to the virgin. The virgin then makes herself ready for his return and upon his arrival, she will travel back with him for the wedding ceremony.

Christ uses this same pattern in His marriage analogy. He "proposes" when He comes to us with the Early Rain. He then leaves to prepare a room (place in the Kingdom of Heaven) for us. Christ then begins His journey back to collect his bride and the call goes out to the (fallen away) virgin to let her know that He is coming. This is the same call John the Baptist made to the Nation of Israel. It is a call to repent from "works" so that the pathway for the Bridegroom's return will be made straight. Just before the return of the Bridegroom, the Bride will be made ready when she is given the Latter Rain of the Spirit (extra Oil). The Bridegroom then returns and the wedding takes place. The Wise Virgin becomes the Bride of Christ and has become a new creation; a child of God. The new child of God is then gathered together with Christ in heaven (**Mat 24:29-31**).

In your original post, you said this:

I know that many churches teach this as Ten brides but that is not what a Jewish wedding was. There were not 10 brides. You need to understand the wedding Jesus is referencing.

First and foremost we know that The Bride is this:

Rev 21:2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

So now we know who the Bride is. It is the Holy Jerusalem which comes out of heaven in the MILLENNIAL AGE. It can also be represented by the True Church of God. God's temple on Earth in THIS AGE are His true believers..... IE: the true church.

The Word of God is spiritual and the words Christ uses to teach us have meanings "different than man's wisdom teaches".

The number TEN is a spiritual symbol and carries a meaning that is different. The number ten means completeness. Our carnal nature is completed after we fall away and become 'worse than the first' by Satan's deception. In other words, we add "religion" to our faith in Christ. Instead of approaching Christ by faith alone, we mix in our own "works". "Works" causes us to "fall away" and spiritually die. For that reason, the parable says all ten virgins "sleep" at midnight. To "sleep" in scripture means to be dead. Midnight represents our darkest state of spiritual blindness when Satan deceives us and makes us into a Man of Sin (the term Paul uses). The

number TEN represents this "completion". All the virgins are the same at this point. This understanding is part of the Great Mystery of Christ and His church.

Rev 21:2 is a spiritual symbol which represents the First-Fruits of Christ harvest of mankind. They are the Bride and are the only ones who Christ is saving in this present age. They are represented by the FIVE wise virgins.

Also, there is no millennial age. All that is left to complete is this present age and then the final age begins. The Millennial age is a false teaching.

Mankind is Christ's temple now but that is part of a different analogy.

You said:

The only verse that even comes close to backing what you are saying is 2 Corinthians 11:2 so let us look at what Paul is saying.

First, we need to establish who Paul is talking to:

2Cor 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

So this is to a Church, not an individual. Paul is sticking to the ascribed definition of a Virgin as a Church or People's belief system.

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.

While this verse says he wishes to present the Church at Corinth as the Bride. If you take this one verse you will read that out of it and your understanding will stop there. You need to look at what context this is being said, he states he is being **foolish for a minute** to make a point about following after false teachers.

The analogy here is if you give a bride to a husband she should not chase after other men.

Yes, of course, the Bride does not represent only one individual in the marriage analogy. The Bride (Five wise Virgins) represents ALL the called and chosen Elect.

The Bride represents all the Elect because they will all travel the same pathway to salvation. That pathway is what the Parable of the Ten Virgins teaches.

You have certainly not read my posts very carefully because you have greatly misunderstood what I presented. I suggest you go back and read my posts again.

Joe