The Gospel According To MATTHEW

# Chapter 25:1-1-13

## “The Parable of the Ten Virgins & the RAPTURE!”

**> Perspective: As we continue through the “Olivet Discourse” (Matthew chapters 24 & 25), we receive the context of the prophetic scenario regarding the *world, Israel, and the church*. Let’s quickly review and look ahead:**

**(1) Mt. 24:4-14 – Global deception, wars, famines, disease, natural catastrophes, persecution, lawlessness, will increase and be more severe as we approach the rapture of the church, and the gospel will have been preached to all the nations.**

**(2) Mt. 24:15-35 – Unveils God’s dealing with Israel after the rapture of the church, here we discover the *Seventieth Week of Daniel* (Daniel 9:24-27), the *abomination of desolation in the holy place* (at the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem (Rev. 11:1-2)), and *the great tribulation* (seven years in length, ref. Rev. Ch. 6—19), then the *2nd return of Christ*, these events will be soon take place after Israel becomes a nation (became a nation May 14, 1948—*“parable of the fig tree”).***

**(3) Mt. 24:36-51 - Jesus explains the immorality of humanity in the last days (*like the days of Noah*, global perspective) as we approach the rapture of the church. Jesus teaches His church to watch, to be wise, faithful, and ready for the rapture!**

**(4) Mt. 25:1-13 – Jesus teaches about the true church (the bride of Christ) and the false church coexisting together at the time of the rapture.**

**(5) Mt. 25:14-30 – *“Parable of the Talents”* - Jesus teaches on the rewards of the true bride and the judgment of the false.**

**(6) Mt. 25:31-46 – Here we see the *2nd coming of Christ*, to set up His “Millennial Kingdom,” the separating of the sheep and the goats (those allowed on earth to come into that 1000 year reign on earth and those rejected headed to everlasting punishment).**

***(v1) The Wedding Preparation***

**- Take note, Jesus says, *“the kingdom of heaven is likened”* – This is speaking to born-again believers, the term *kingdom of heaven* is used 32 times in the New Testament and each verse is refers to the church. The term *is likened* means *a similar comparison to*.**

**- The *ten virgins* represent the true and false church spoken of in the last days, the true Church of *Philadelphia* (Rev. 3:7-14) & the apostate church of *Laodicea* (Rev. 3:14-22).**

**- The *lamp* is symbolic of God in the life of the believer. In the Old Testament we are told the priest were to keep the lamp burning continually in the Temple, Ex 27:20 *"And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.”* David declared in song in 2 Sam 22:29 - *For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.* In Ps 119:105 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matt 5:14-16 - *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”**

**- We know the *bridegroom* is JESUS! John the Baptist called Jesus the "bridegroom" (John 3:29). Jesus referred to Himself as the "bridegroom" (Matt 9:15). Jesus' bride, of course, is the church-those who are spiritually united with Him by faith.**

**> Let’s understand MARRIAGE from the Hebrew culture:**

**- First, the *Selection of Bride* – Perhaps in imitation of the Father of the universe, who provided Adam with a wife, fathers from the beginning considered it their duty and prerogative to secure wives for their sons (Gen 24:3-4; 38:6; etc.). In the absence of the father the responsibility of selection was passed to the mother (21:21). In some cases, the proposal was made by the father of the girl (Ex 2:21). Occasionally the whole business of selecting the wife was committed to a friend.**

**- Second, we have *The Betrothal* - The selection of the bride was followed by the espousal, which was not altogether like our "engagement" but was a formal proceeding, undertaken by a friend or legal representative on the part of the bridegroom and by the parents on the part of the bride. It was confirmed by oaths and accompanied with presents to the bride. These presents were described by different terms, that to the bride by "a dowry" (Heb. *mohar*) and that to the relatives by "a present" (Heb. *mattan*).**

**- Third, the *Marriage Ceremony* - Usually the marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents and was celebrated by a feast to which friends and neighbors were invited and which lasted seven days (Gen 29:22,27).**

**The essence of the ceremony consisted in the removal of the bride from her father's house to that of the bridegroom or his father. There seems, indeed, to be a literal truth in the Heb. expression "to take" a wife (Gen 21:21; 24:3,38; 26:34), for the ceremony appears to have mainly consisted in the taking.**

**After putting on festive dress, placing a "garland" on his head (Isa 61:10; "crown," Song 3:11, marg., "wreath"), the bridegroom set forth from his house, attended by his groomsmen (cf. Judges 14:11; Matt 9:15), preceded by a band of musicians or singers (Gen 31:27; Jer 7:34; 16:9), and accompanied by persons bearing lamps (Matt 25:7; cf. Jer 25:10; Rev 18:23).**

**Having reached the house of the bride, who with her companions anxiously expected his arrival (Matt 25:1,6), he conducted the whole party back to his own or his father's house, with every demonstration of gladness (Ps 45:15).**

**Once at the groom's house, the couple was ushered into a bridal chamber. The marriage was consummated through sexual union as the guests waited outside. Once that fact was announced, the wedding festivities continued, with guests dropping by for the wedding feast.[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**- Notice there’s *ten virgins* mentioned, why ten?**

**– The number *TEN* according to *Fausset’s Bible Dictionary* represents perfected universality. The Ten Commandments contain the whole cycle of God's moral requirements. The tithe represented the whole property as belonging to God (Gen 14:20). Genesis has the formula ten times, *"these are the generations"* (Gen 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10,27; 25:12,19; 36:1; 37:2). The ten plagues were the entire round of judgments from God's hand.**

**The tabernacle, temple, and New Jerusalem have ten as the prevailing figure in measurements. In the New Testament the ten lepers, ten talents, ten cities in reward for ten pounds gained, ten virgins.**

**Antichrist too has his ten, comprising the whole cycle of the world power: ten nations opposed to Abraham's seed (Gen 15:19); ten toes on Nebuchadnezzar's image to be stricken by the stone (Dan 2:41); ten horns on the fourth beast (Dan 7:7,20,24; Rev 12:3; 13:1; 17:3,7,12, "ten kings"); the complete term of the world power's persecution of the church (Rev 2:10).**

***(v2-10) The Wedding Reception***

**(v2-4) The parable revealed (remember a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning) – *Five virgins* (*virgins* in Greek is *parthenos* - *by implication, an unmarried daughter*), are *wise*, meaning *intelligent, prudent, mindful of one’s business*.**

**- Five are *foolish,* the Greek word is *moros* , meaning *dull, sluggish, to be silly, or stupid.***

**- We also know according to Biblical numerology that *five* is the number of *grace*. *Five—wise* according to Eph 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast;* whereas, the *five—foolish* had a presumption of grace lacking true saving faith.**

**- *Oil* in scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The foolish had lamps, but not enough oil. The wise had lamps and an extra flask of oil; they were full of oil, full of the Holy Spirit.**

**(v5-6) *“at midnight”* – Time is finished for the church, it’s time for the *marriage of the lamb* (Rev 19:7-9 - *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"),* and it’s time for judgment in this world (the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:21-22; Rev. Chapters 6 - 19).**

**- It was at midnight that the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt (Ex 11:4; 12:29).**

**- At this moment a *cry was heard* it’s the “rapture” of the believing church according to:**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 *- For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.***

(v7-10) Pay close attention to the foolish virgins their lights went out and they had no oil. They were told by the wise to go to the world and buy oil, for this is where the foolish virgins have always gotten their oil, this is worldly religion, fake Christianity!

- **Let’s** learn from **Revelation 3:7-22 and contrast the *faithful bride and the unfaithful church***:

**- Observe the *faithful bride of Christ* – Revelation 3: 7-13 - *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.***

***Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.***

***Behold, I am coming quickly! (The word “quickly” in Greek is “tachu,” which is by surprise, suddenly.) Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'***

**- Observe the *unfaithful Lukewarm Church* – Revelation 3: 14-22 - *"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,* *'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked — I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."'"***

***(v11-13) The Wedding Revelation***

**(v11-12) This passage sounds like Matthew 7:21-23 - *"Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'***

**Jesus said in Matthew 13:22-23 - *Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."***

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### (v13) Jesus tells us to watch and be ready once again; this is the fourth time He’s taught us about His imminent return! (Matthew Ch. 24:36-42 (like the *days of Noah*); verses 43-44 (the *house owner and the thief*); verses 45-51 (the *wise and faithful servant*); Ch. 25:1-13 (the *parable of the ten virgins*)).

### *> Let’s be RAPTURE READY, it’s almost midnight!*

**Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 - *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.***

***So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*  *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***

1. (From the New Unger's Bible Dictionary & Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)