

Five Foolish Virgins: Don't Procrastinate! : Part 1

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Olivet Discourse Little Apocalypse And Book Of Revelation, Jesus Warns His Followers To Remain Alert And Be Prepared For His Return, Parable Of The Ten Virgins, Wrong Interpretation, Misguided Bible Teachers, God's Word Often Interprets Itself, Test All Doctrines Against The Scriptures, Led By The Spirit, Jesus Knows Who God Has Drawn To Him And Who He Has Chosen, Jesus Will Never Reject Those Who Are Predestined Chosen And Drawn To Him By His Father's Will, Jesus And Apostles Were First Sent To The Children Of Israel Only, Major Portion Of The Bible Was Written For And Directed To First Century Jews, Jesus Will Shut Out Cast Into Outer Darkness And Throw Into Everlasting Fire Those He Doesn't Know And Who Do Not Belong To Him, Jesus' Warnings Were Directed To The Unbelieving Jews Who Assumed Themselves To Be The True Children Of The Kingdom

As many Christians readers will no doubt already be aware, the twenty-fourth -- and by extension -- the twenty-fifth chapters of the Gospel of Matthew compromise what is commonly referred to as the Olivet Discourse in theological circles. A discourse is simply a discussion or a sermon. This particular sermon by Jesus -- which discusses the signs which lead up to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, His Return, and the end of the age -- is likewise sometimes referred to as the "Little Apocalypse". The word "apocalypse" finds its origin in the Greek word "apokalupsis", which means to lay bare, make naked, disclose or reveal. It is for this reason that the Book of Revelation is also known as the Apocalypse. In other words, the Olivet Discourse is somewhat like a condensed version of the Book of Revelation.

Similar to the Gospel of Mark chapter thirteen and the Gospel of Luke chapter twenty-one, within these two chapters in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus shares a number of Parables in which He warns His First Century listeners to always remain alert, and to be prepared for His Return. One such Parable which is known to many Christians is the Parable of the Ten Virgins, as we see by the following verses:

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 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. 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. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
Matthew 25:1-13, KJV

What actually motivated me to write this current series is an online comment I came across where a certain person took it upon themself to identify the five foolish virgins who the Lord mentions in this Parable. As I read their comment, I had to shake my head in dismay, because to be quite honest, it was so off the mark, and not the least bit supported by the Scriptures. According to this individual, these five foolish virgins are children of God who are members of the Laodicean Church. This person went on to explain that because they were lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, the Lord would reject them at His Return. Not only that, but because this individual is also apparently a staunch supporter of water baptism, they noted that -- in their opinion, at least -- the five foolish virgins had not been water baptized.

As I said, this misguided interpretation regarding the five foolish virgins finds no basis in the Scriptures whatsoever. From the very beginning when this individual claimed that the five rejected virgins were children of God, I realized that they know not whereof they speak. The New Testament contains a number of verses which describe people who endeavor to be teachers of God's Word who are not only confused themselves, but who confuse others with their twisted interpretations and wayward doctrines. Consider the following Scriptures and be warned:

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."
1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."
1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."
1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"
2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are

become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:11-14, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

2 Peter 2:1, KJV

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

Perhaps if this person had taken some serious time to delve into God's Word -- as I have now done -- they would not have made this error. As I have so often said to my readers, the Bible in large part interprets itself. However, if we are so full of our own preconceived ideas and the doctrines of men, and don't properly invest the time to rightly divide the Word of Truth, we will no doubt arrive at the wrong conclusions as this person has done. Rather than blindly accept what others teach, we need to test what they say against the Scriptures, compare verse with verse, and make certain that whatever it is they are teaching agrees with God's Word. We also need to be led by the Spirit in our understanding.

This very same standard equally applies to my own articles as well. If after reading what I have to say regarding a particular subject, and studying all of the verses which I have shared to support my views, you still remain doubtful and unconvinced, then simply pray about, or outright reject it if you feel so inclined. This healthy study practice is made evident by verses such as the following:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Acts 17:10-11, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

John 16:13, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

To continue with our discussion regarding the Parable of the Ten Virgins, as I said, my investigation into the Scriptures has fully convinced me that the aforementioned interpretation is dead wrong. As I will now prove to you through a plethora of verses, this Parable has absolutely nothing to do with the Laodicean Church. Furthermore, it has nothing to do with the Christian Church at all, or with water baptism, or even with Christian service to the Lord. Last of all, I am convinced that the five foolish virgins do not represent true children of God whatsoever. In other words, they are not even saved.

If you are feeling somewhat confused by my statements, don't be. My regular readers should know by now that I would not make such bold statements unless I was absolutely convinced of them through a thorough study of the Scriptures. So let us begin by discussing a few basic Biblical principles which will enable us to unravel this Scriptural mystery. If there is one thing that the Bible makes clear, it is that the Lord most certainly knows who the Father has drawn to Him, who He has chosen, and who belongs to Him. This particular doctrine is made quite clear by the following verses:

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:44, KJV

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"

John 10:27, KJV

During the Passover meal, just prior to His arrest and Crucifixion, Jesus said the following to the Apostles regarding those whom He knew and had chosen, as opposed to the traitor -- Judas Iscariot -- whom He had not chosen:

"I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he."

John 13:18-19, KJV

Only two chapters later, Jesus would again confirm that He knew who He had chosen with the following verses:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you . . . If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:16, 19, KJV

In His second Epistle to Timothy, who was his beloved son in the faith, the Apostle Paul likewise affirms that "the Lord knoweth them that are his", as we see by this verse:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

Following are some additional verses which are found in the New Testament which confirm and verify that God the Father has indeed predestinated and chosen certain individuals to Salvation through faith in the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ:

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:16, KJV

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14, KJV

"And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Mark 13:20, KJV

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."

Acts 13:48, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love . . . Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to

the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

James 2:5, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

Revelation 14:4, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

In addition to informing us that Jesus fully recognizes and knows who His true sheep are, as I explain in "OSAS: Are We Once Saved, Always Saved?", the Bible likewise makes it very clear that Jesus will never reject those individuals who have been predestinated, chosen and drawn to Him by the Will of His own Father. Consider the following verses which confirm this doctrine as well:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

John 10:28-29, KJV

". . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Hebrews 13:5, KJV

Before we proceed, it is important that you are convinced of the previous two points, because in a minute I am going to

show you something else that is revealed, not only in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, but in a few other places in the Scriptures as well. However, before doing that, let me share with you another important point first. As I amply explain in the series entitled "Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts", contrary to what is commonly believed by a lot of Christians, many of the Parables and warnings which are recorded in the four Gospels are not directed to Gentile Believers. How do I know this? Because Jesus Himself clearly informs us that during that period of time, neither He nor the Apostles were sent to the Gentiles, as we plainly see by the following verses:

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
Matthew 10:5-6, KJV

"But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
Matthew 15:24, KJV

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews."
John 4:22, KJV

The truth of the matter -- and this may be difficult for some Christians to accept -- is that not only were the Scriptures written by the Jews -- under the inspiration of God's Spirit -- but a major portion of the Bible -- up to and including the Book of Revelation -- was written specifically for the Jews, as well as directed to the Jews of Israel of the First Century. This includes the Parables which we find in the four Gospels, including the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

Now, we have clearly seen that not only does the Lord know and recognize those Believers who truly belong to Him, but we have also seen that -- based on the promises of His very own word -- He will never reject or cast out those who have been drawn to Him by the Father. However, in direct contrast to these truths, Jesus informs us in several of His Parables -- including in the Parable of the Ten Virgins -- that He is going to do that very thing with certain people. He will say that He does not know them; He will slam the door right in their faces; He will cast some of them into outer darkness; and He will even send them to everlasting fire. This truth is made quite apparent in verses and Parables such as these:

"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. Many 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."
Matthew 7:21-23, KJV

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be

weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Matthew 8:11-12, KJV

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen."
Matthew 22:1-14, KJV

"Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."
Matthew 25:11-12, KJV

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid,

and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Matthew 25:14-30, KJV

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"
Matthew 25:31-33, 41, KJV

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."
Luke 13:23-30, KJV

So exactly who are these "workers of iniquity" who the Lord orders to depart? Who are these "children of the kingdom" who are "cast out into outer darkness"? Who is the man without a wedding garment regarding whom the king says "cast him into outer darkness"? Who are the five foolish virgins to whom the Bridegroom says "I know you not"? Who is the unprofitable servant who is likewise cast into outer darkness? Who are the stubborn goats on the left to whom the Son of Man declares "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels"? Who are these people to whom the Master of the House says "I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity"? Who are these who believe themselves to be first, but who in fact "shall be last"? Finally, why does Jesus keep making a reference to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Prophets?

In case you haven't figured it out yet, Jesus' warnings and

rebukes in the previous verses are all directed to the Jews themselves. More specifically, the Lord's words are primarily directed to the self-righteous religious leaders of Israel; that is, the chief priests and the elders, who were in large part comprised of the major religious sects of the Scribes and the Pharisees, and the Sadducees. This becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? . . . Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them."
Matthew 21:23, 43-45, KJV

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you."
John 10:24-26, KJV

Please notice that by stating that the Kingdom of God shall be taken from them, Jesus is in fact confirming that in the previous verses where He says "the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness", He is referring to them. In other words, it is not that those unbelieving Jews were truly the children of the Kingdom, it is that in their blindness and haughtiness, they deceived themselves into believing that they were. That this is who Jesus means when He says "children of the kingdom" is also evidenced by the fact that in the previous verses, we are even told that "they perceived that he spake of them".

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Five Foolish Virgins: Don't Procrastinate! : Part 2

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Pious Jewish Religious Elders Prided Themselves In Supposedly Keeping Mosaic Law, Jesus Exposed Their Hypocritical Works, The Scribes And Pharisees Endeavored To Establish Their Own Righteousness Instead Of Trusting In Christ, Jewish Legalists

Claimed Their Place In God's Kingdom Based On Their Genetic Ties To Abraham Isaac And Jacob, What We Are In The Flesh Is Insignificant In Regards To Salvation, The Real Children Of Abraham Are Those Who Place Their Faith In Christ, Parables Are Directed To Unbelieving Jews, Jesus Banishes Children Of Hell To Everlasting Fire, Jews Who Reject Jesus Are Children Of Hell And Synagogue Of Satan, Pro-Israel Christians Take Offence, Lord Lord Group, Jesus Looked Beyond The Flattering Words Of His Enemies And Into Their Wicked Hearts, Jewish False Prophets Exorcists And Sorcerers Try To Imitate Christ, Doctrines And Traditions Of The Scribes And The Pharisees, Main Theme Of Many Of Jesus' Parables Is Salvation Of Jews, Be Spirit-Led In Our Understanding And Search The Scriptures, Don't Wear Doctrinal Filters Which May Blind Us To The Truth, Five Foolish Virgins Represent Unsaved Jews, The Man Without Wedding Garment, Sinful Nature, Made Righteous Through Jesus

Continuing our discussion from part one, as we have seen, due to their own pride and deception, the unbelieving Jews of First Century Israel assumed themselves to be the true children of the Kingdom of God. Why were they so confident of this? Well, for two primary reasons. As I amply explain in the series entitled "Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts", one reason for their deception is that the Jewish religious elders in particular prided themselves in observing the Laws of Moses. Better said, they pretended to observe the Mosaic Law in the public's eye. However, Jesus had this to say regarding those pious hypocrites, and the rest of the chapter is much more harsh:

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

Matthew 23:1-3, KJV

In other words, the Scribes and the Pharisees, and I suppose other religionists of their ilk, were seriously engaged in a major works trip. They apparently convinced themselves that they could establish their own righteousness, and thus buy their way into Heaven. They deemed themselves to be so holy and righteous, that they figured that they had the Salvation deal all sewed up with God. Thus, they were totally blind to the fact that they needed Jesus to save them. As the Apostle Paul writes:

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

Romans 10:1-4, KJV

The second main reason why the Jewish religious elders were so convinced that the Kingdom of God was theirs without any question, and that they would be first in God's Kingdom --

even though Jesus said they would be last, and even cast out -- is because of their very heritage. In other words, they foolishly claimed their legitimacy based on their bloodlines to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were so shortsighted, that they failed to recognize that who we are in the flesh is of little significance to our Heavenly Father. Jesus endeavored to point this out to them, and the Apostle Paul wrote a lot about this same topic as well; but those self-righteous Jews just never understood that the true children of Abraham are the children of faith, who obtain their righteousness only through Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."
Matthew 3:9, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham."
John 8:37-39, KJV

"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."
Romans 9:6-8, KJV

"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham . . . That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith . . . And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
Galatians 3:7-9, 14, 29, KJV

"Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise."
Galatians 4:28, KJV

So this is why in the previous Parables that I shared with you in part one, Jesus kept making references to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This was not only a hint regarding who His real audience was -- that is, the Jews themselves, and not Christians -- but it was also Jesus' way of saying to them "You think that you've got it made. You think that you are going to sit down in my Father's Kingdom with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but you are not because you are not my sheep, and I do not know you."

Even the fact that in Matthew chapter twenty-five Jesus says "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared

for the devil and his angels" is a powerful hint regarding who Jesus is referring to. Clearly, Jesus would not say this to His own dear saved children, who He would never cast out, as we saw in part one. Thus, contrary to what some of you may have been led to believe by certain misguided preachers and Bible teachers, Jesus' words are not directed to Christians who just couldn't make the grade. As we have already learned, these warnings and Parables were directed to the unbelieving Jews themselves, who were Jesus' audience. As I explain in the "Dead to the Law" series, Gentiles would not even become an active part of the evangelical equation until the Book of Acts.

Having stated the above, I am absolutely convinced that the only people to whom Jesus would say this, and in fact banish into everlasting fire, would be the actual children of hell themselves. As I noted in part one, in many cases, the Bible interprets itself. Thus, there is no need for us to resort to personal theories and conjectures and try to guess who these unbelieving evil doers are. Why? Because the Lord informs us exactly who they are in both the Gospels, as well as in His final revelation to us; that is, in the Book of Revelation. As you can see by the verses below, the rebellious people who are cast into everlasting fire are the unbelieving Jews who choose to reject Christ, and who are thus both antichrist, as well as the very children of Hell, and of Satan:

"Ye [speaking to the Jewish leadership] are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."
John 8:44, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."
Matthew 23:15, KJV

"In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them [the Jews] which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."
2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."
1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, KJV

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."
Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which

say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Revelation 3:9, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:3, KJV

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

2 John 1:7, KJV

Some Christians take offence at the previous verses because they are very much pro-Israel, and have been blinded by the Zionist agenda. Thus, they either choose to ignore the verses, or else they endeavor to find some other way to interpret and understand them, so that they feel more comfortable with them. However, the truth is the truth, and we cannot deny it simply because we do not like it, or because it goes against what we want to believe. The verses say what they say. Jesus said it; so do you accept it and believe it? Please note that Jesus is the one who is speaking in the Book of Revelation as well.

For some time now, based on Jesus' own words, I have referred to these outwardly pious people who claim to belong to Jesus, who try to flatter and impress Him with their "Lord, Lord", praises, and who boast of all of the supposed good works they have done in His Name, as the "Lord, Lord Group". They are mentioned in the following verses:

"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. Many 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:21-23, KJV

"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. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Matthew 25:10-12, KJV

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Luke 6:46, KJV

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the

door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."
Luke 13:24-27, KJV

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
Matthew 15:7-9, KJV

"Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."
Mark 7:5-7, KJV

As you can see, Jesus was no fool. He had both Wisdom and Spiritual Discernment. Thus, He knew how to look beyond the hypocritical, flattering praises which freely spewed forth from their viperous tongues, and see within their deep and wicked hearts. They were as trustworthy as Judas Iscariot, and the Lord knew it. They would praise Him one day, and turn around and kill Him just a few days later.

At first glance, the previous verses may seem to be talking about Christians. After all, who would prophesy in the Name of Jesus? Who would cast out devils in His Name? Who would do many wonderful works in His Name? If you think that only Christians could do these things -- who, let us not forget, did not even exist at that time -- you are mistaken. There were in fact a number of Jewish false prophets, exorcists and sorcerers who tried to capitalize on Jesus' Name, but who did not actually accept Him for who He was, and is. If Pharaoh's two wizards -- Jannes and Jambres -- could resist Moses, it should not surprise us then that there were also certain Jewish deceivers who also endeavored to imitate the power of the Lord but who were really empowered by the Devil himself, or at least by his demon army. This becomes evident by the following verses:

"Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."
2 Timothy 3:8-9, KJV

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."
Matthew 24:24, KJV

"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even

the elect."
Mark 13:22, KJV

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done . . . And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me."
Acts 8:9-13, 18-24, KJV

"And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand."
Acts 13:6-11, KJV

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."
Acts 19:13-16, KJV

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying

wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
2 Thessalonians 2:8-12, KJV

As I mentioned earlier, we need to remind ourselves of the environment of that period, and who Jesus' audience was. It was not Christians, and it was most certainly not Gentile Christians. His audience only consisted of Jews at that time, including the proud, self-righteous Jewish religionists who were in power in Israel, and particularly in Jerusalem. We see another hint that this is so in the words "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men". As I have pointed out a number of times before, this is precisely what the Jewish religious leaders did. Much like what is happening in the world today, they nullified God's Word through their own doctrines, traditions, laws and customs. Following are some additional verses which expose and warn against this very same problem:

"In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."
Luke 12:1, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."
Matthew 16:6-12, KJV

"Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."
Matthew 15:1-6, KJV

"For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many

other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."
Mark 7:8-13, KJV

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."
1 Corinthians 2:4-5, KJV

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."
Colossians 2:8, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
2 Timothy 4:3-4, KJV

Another very important point that is worth mentioning here is the fact that the main theme of many of Jesus' Parables is Salvation, and the expediency of receiving Him as their Savior while there is still time. Jesus repeatedly warns His Jewish listeners that they should not procrastinate insofar as their decision is concerned, because once He leaves the Earth, that is it. All opportunity will be lost for them. He tells them that when He returns later, it will simply be to collect His own, and then the door to the Marriage Supper will be shut. If you doubt that the Salvation of the Jews is in fact the central theme of many of these Parables, then consider that the verses which I shared with you in part one from the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke begin with this important question:

"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved?"
Luke 13:23, KJV

Considering that Jesus said "salvation is of the Jews" in the Gospel of John, and that Jesus only preached to the Jews, it is evident that this question in the Gospel of Luke concerns the Salvation of the Jews, and not the Salvation of Gentiles.

It is amazing how much we can learn if we simply take the time to seriously study God's Word, instead of resorting to our own human wisdom and understanding, and the misguided doctrines of men. As I explained in part one, we need to be Spirit-led in our understanding, and we need to compare one Scripture with another, so that we are not led astray. Also, we need to be careful that we do not study God's Word with doctrinal filters on our eyes which can very easily blind us to the truth. In other words, if we start out with certain

preconceived ideas, we will only see what we want to see, and not much more. Even if God tries to show us something new and different, we will resist it.

Taken into consideration this preponderance of evidence which we find in the New Testament, it seems rather obvious to me that, contrary to what this misguided person wrote, the five foolish virgins were not backslidden Christians, or members of the Church of Laodicea, or Christians who had been rejected as a result of not being baptized in water. The reason why these five foolish virgins were shut out of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb is because they were not actually saved. They were in fact unsaved Jews. In their deception, they thought that they were saved -- just like the self-righteous Jewish religious leaders who were convinced that they could establish their own righteousness by keep the Law -- but as it turned out, Jesus did not know them or recognize them as belonging to Him. They were not His sheep, just as the Scribes and the Pharisees were told by Him that they were not His sheep either. Thus, these five foolish virgins were rejected and not let in.

As I point out in articles such as "Once Upon a Time: A True Story" and "Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen", those five foolish virgins are just like the man who tried to sneak into the Marriage Feast without wearing the proper wedding garment. If you take the time to read those two articles, you will see that the wedding garment represents the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is the only ticket to Heaven that there is. That deceived man was relying on his own righteousness, just like the Scribes and the Pharisees. While he thought that his own works would suffice, to his shock, he learned rather quickly that only faith in Jesus' finished Work on the Cross counts towards our righteousness. The fact that we are born in sin, have no righteousness of our own, and are only saved by the Grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ is revealed in such verses as the following:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."
Psalms 51:5, KJV

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
Isaiah 64:6, KJV

"If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"
Psalms 130:3, KJV

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:"
Malachi 3:2, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 21-23, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23, KJV

"And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

Romans 8:10, KJV

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"

Colossians 2:13, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins . . . But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus . . . For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:1, 4-9, KJV

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

1 Peter 2:24, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Five Foolish Virgins: Don't Procrastinate! : Part 3

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Jesus Knows Who Belongs To Him And Who His Real Sheep Are,
The Five Wise Virgins Carried Their Lamps And Spare Oil In

A Second Vessel, Description Of Ancient Jewish Oil Lamps, Jewish Oil Lamps Were Fueled By Olive Oil, Construction Of The Menorah, Jesus Purposely Concealed Spiritual Truths In His Parables, Oil And The Light Represent Presence Of God's Spirit, King David Became A Light For Israel, Jesus Is The Light Of The World In Whom The Gentiles Trust, Oil Lamps Represent Our Earthen Vessels Of Flesh In Which Holy Spirit Dwells, We Are God's Spiritual Temples, There Is No Light Without The Power Of The Oil Of The Spirit, Earnest Of The Spirit Is A Down Payment Of Greater Spiritual Realities To Come, Why It Is The Spirit Of Promise, Our Responsibility To Let Our Spiritual Lights Shine Before The Whole World, Five Foolish Virgins Procrastinated And Had No Oil When The Bridegroom Returned, Satan's Ruse: You Have A Lot Of Time

To reiterate one of the key points of this series, "the Lord knoweth them that are his", as the Apostle Paul writes in his Epistle. Jesus recognizes His true sheep. Jesus knows who is really saved. He knows who His Father has drawn to Him. If a person is not saved, if Jesus does not know them or recognize them as His sheep, then there is simply no place for them in His Father's Kingdom, as the five foolish virgins found out, and as the man without the proper wedding garment also found out.

While I could probably end this series right now and some of you would be satisfied, the fact of the matter is that we are not quite done yet with our Scriptural journey. While we have now seen that Jesus knows and recognizes His true sheep, we have yet to discuss exactly how He recognizes those who truly belong to Him. It is at this point in our discussion that we return to the Parable of the Ten Virgins; because the answer to this last question can actually be found in the oil lamps themselves. The first thing that we learn upon examination of this Parable, is that the Five Wise Virgins actually carried two vessels with them -- that is, the lamp itself, as well as a second vessel which contained spare oil -- while the Five Foolish Virgins only took the lamp itself, but neglected to carry extra oil with them. This becomes evident by the verses which follow:

"They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."
Matthew 25:3-4, KJV

The Jewish lamps which were carried by the Ten Virgins were rather simple in nature. Usually constructed of clay, they had a large round hole on the top through which the oil was poured into the small handheld lamp. On one end of the lamp there was sometimes a knob or a ring which was used to hold the lamp in one's hand, although not always. On the other end there was a hole -- which was sometimes located at the end of a nozzle -- from which the wick would protrude. In other words, the wick would be pushed through the hole on the end, and fed through the small channel in the nozzle, so that it would suck up the oil which was located in the main reservoir of the lamp. The wick would be trimmed -- as we see the Virgins doing in this Parable -- so that the flame would burn just right.

As had been the custom since the times of the Old Testament period, these lamps were filled with olive oil, due to the fact that olive trees were plenteous in the land of Israel. In fact, in studying the Old Testament, we discover that the six-branched menorah which stood in the Tabernacle, and then later in the Temple itself, was likewise fueled by olive oil as well. While the menorah had six branches, it actually had seven lamps in all due to the central shaft. Following is a description of the menorah, as well as Scriptural proof that olive oil was used to produce its light:

"And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same. And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side: Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick. And in the candlestick shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers. And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick. Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold. And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold. Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels. And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount."
Exodus 25:31-40, KJV

"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always."
Exodus 27:20, KJV

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually."
Leviticus 24:1-4, KJV

So how does the menorah and the Jewish oil lamps relate to our current discussion? As you may know, Jesus often used Parables to explain deeper spiritual truths regarding the Kingdom of Heaven. In fact, as the Lord told His followers, He would often conceal these truths in His Parables so that His enemies would not understand them. Consider these verses which we find in the Gospel of Matthew:

"And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them,

Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

Matthew 13:10-16, KJV

Because the Scribes and the Pharisees and other elders of Israel did not truly possess God's Spirit, they were often left in confusion regarding what Jesus meant. As the Apostle Paul would later write:

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

The Parable of the Ten Virgins is no different. It likewise contains some deeper truths, in addition to its warning to the Jews to be prepared for Christ's Return by accepting Him as their Savior. Upon reading about the construction of the menorah in the Old Testament, and also about how the Prophet Samuel was sent to anoint young David to be the next king of Israel, we come to understand that olive oil represents the Presence of God's Spirit. Stated another way, as long as the Israelites knew that the menorah was burning in the outer portion of the Tabernacle -- and later in the Temple -- they were comforted and realized that God's Spirit was with them. The power wasn't actually in the light itself. The light was simply the result of the olive oil which was burning. The oil was the real source of power, just as God's Spirit is also the real Source of Power in our lives today, which results in our burning brightly for His glory. Consider what happened to David after Samuel anointed him with oil:

"Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."
1 Samuel 16:13, KJV

So as I said, the oil represents the Presence of God's Spirit in our lives, which causes us to burn brightly for the Lord. This is a topic which I also discuss in such articles as "Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord", "This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future", and a few others which I will list at the end of this series. In King David's case, we are in fact told that he became a light for Israel, just as his son and heir -- King Solomon -- did after him. Consider the following verses:

"But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succoured him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David sware unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel."

2 Samuel 21:17, KJV

"Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his [Solomon's] hand: but I will make him prince all the days of his life for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes: But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there."

1 Kings 11:34-36, KJV

"Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:"

1 Kings 15:4, KJV

"Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, and to his children."

2 Kings 8:19, KJV

"Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever."

2 Chronicles 21:7, KJV

"There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed."

Psalms 132:17, KJV

Of course, what God did through King David was merely a faint reflection of what He would do later, when Jesus would become not only the Light for Israel, but the Light of Salvation for all of the Gentiles, and for the entire world as well, as we see by the following verses:

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Isaiah 9:2, KJV

"And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth. And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them."

Isaiah 10:17-19, KJV

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of

the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."
Isaiah 42:5-7, KJV

"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6, KJV

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."
Isaiah 62:1, KJV

"For thou art my lamp, O LORD: and the LORD will lighten my darkness."
2 Samuel 22:29, KJV

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."
Luke 2:25-32, KJV

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."
John 1:4-9, KJV

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
John 8:12, KJV

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
John 9:5, KJV

"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth . . . I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."
John 12:35, 46, KJV

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."
Acts 13:46-47, KJV

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."
Acts 26:22-23, KJV

"And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."
Matthew 12:21, KJV

"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."
Isaiah 60:19-20, KJV

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."
Revelation 21:23-25, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."
Revelation 22:16, KJV

While we have discussed the spiritual significance of the olive oil and the light which it produced in regards to the lamps which were carried by the Virgins in Jesus' Parable, we have yet to discuss the vessels themselves. As it turns out, and as I amply explain in the article "A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: Promise of the Spirit", these oil lamps, which were made of clay -- or earth -- in fact represent our very own bodies of flesh, within which resides the Spirit of God when we accept Jesus Christ.

In the following verses, the Apostle Paul clearly describes our bodies as being "earthen vessels", just as the Jewish oil lamps were also made of earth. Paul likewise informs us that this "treasure" which we possess in our "earthen vessels" is nothing less than God's Spirit which was promised to us, and which now resides in each one of us. In addition to "earthen vessels", when Paul uses the phrases "outward man", "earthly house", "tabernacle", "house" and "building", he is likewise referring to our body of flesh which houses God's Spirit:

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:"
2 Corinthians 4:7, 5:1-6, KJV

Paul discusses this very same issue regarding our "earthen vessels" of human flesh serving as spiritual temples which house the Spirit of the Living God when we accept Christ in the following verses as well:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."
1 Corinthians 3:16-17, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
2 Corinthians 6:16, KJV

To reiterate our primary point, this "treasure in earthen vessels", this "earnest of the Spirit" of which Paul writes, is nothing less than God's Spirit which comes and dwells in every born-again child of God. Our bodies of flesh become just like the clay oil lamps which the Ten Virgins carried in Jesus' Parable. Please notice that in the previous set of verses, the Apostle Paul also writes "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us". As I pointed out to you earlier, the power is not found in the light itself. The real source of power which even makes the light possible is actually the oil. In similar fashion, we simply cannot shine for the Lord without the Power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Without the Oil of the Spirit, there is no light. Thus, as Jesus said to His own Apostles prior to His return to Heaven:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
Acts 1:8, KJV

The Lord gave a similar message to the Prophet Zecharia,

which he was deliver to Zerubbabel, who had been chosen by God to lead the movement to rebuild Solomon's Temple, along with the assistance of Ezra, Nehemiah and other leaders of the returning Jews. Consider this verse:

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."
Zechariah 4:6, KJV

So once again we see that this power is not born of ourselves by any means. The true Source of Power is in reality the Holy Spirit, which is symbolized by the oil in the lamp.

On a side note, in that phrase "earnest of the Spirit", the word "earnest" is derived from the Greek word "arrhabon". Thayer's Greek English Lexicon notes that this word refers to money which, in purchases, is given as a pledge or a down payment, signifying that the full amount will subsequently be paid. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit is. It is just a foretaste of Heaven, and a sample of what is to come, for those of us who believe. Paul speaks of this same "earnest" -- or down payment -- in the following verses which we find in his Epistle to the Ephesians:

"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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

As you can see, in this case, Paul refers to the Holy Spirit as "the earnest of our inheritance"; once again signifying that it is just a small foretaste -- or down payment -- of the Heavenly Realities which are yet to be revealed, once we graduate out of this present life and body of flesh. Please also notice that Paul refers to it as "that holy Spirit of promise". He uses the same kind of terminology in this verse as well, as does the writer Luke in the Book of Acts, as we see here:

"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."
Galatians 3:14, KJV

"Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."
Acts 2:33, KJV

Why do Paul and Luke refer to the Holy Spirit as a promise? Once again the Scriptures provide us with a clear answer. It is because this is what Jesus promised to the Apostles, and to us by extension, as we see by the following verses:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26, KJV

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"
John 15:26, KJV

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
John 16:13, KJV

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."
Luke 24:49, KJV

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."
Acts 1:4-5, KJV

As any Christian who is familiar with the Book of Acts will know, this is precisely what occurred as well on the Day of Pentecost; and God's children have each received this most precious Gift, according to the measure determined by God, ever since. Because we have each been filled with the Oil of the Holy Spirit which fuels our spiritual flame, God's Word informs us that it is our God-given responsibility to allow this light within our earthen vessels to shine before the world as a witness of our faith. Consider these verses:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately."
Luke 12:35-36, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
Philippians 2:15, KJV

As you can see, the Lord clearly stresses how important it is to having our "lights burning". This was precisely the tragic failure of the Five Foolish Virgins. While the Five Wise Virgins were diligent and had oil in their lamps, and were thus ready and waiting for the arrival of the beloved Bridegroom, the other foolish ones had made the horrible mistake of procrastinating. Thus, to their own shock, they found themselves without oil when the Bridegroom returned.

How typical of Satan to rely upon a ruse such as this. Has he also told you that you have all the time in the world to accept Jesus Christ? If so, please carefully consider the following verses and be warned:

"The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Psalms 90:10, KJV

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:7-8, KJV

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Luke 12:20, KJV

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

Hebrews 9:27, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Five Foolish Virgins: Don't Procrastinate! : Part 4

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Sealed With The Spirit, Jesus Paid The Ransom Price For Our Redemption, We Are His Purchased Possessions And Untouchable By Satan, Sealed 144,000 Servants Of The Lord, Fate Of The Unsealed, Review Of The Key Points, How We Know That Christ Dwells In Us, Consequences Of Not Having The Holy Spirit, Final Explanation Of The Parable Of The Ten Virgins, Five Foolish Virgins Procrastinated And Were Shut Out, Why You May Reject Christianity, Eternal Truths Of God's Word, An Invitation To Salvation, Recommended Reading Resources List

Continuing our discussion from part three, let me also call

your attention to the fact that in the verse that I shared with you earlier, the Apostle Paul writes "ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise". As I point out in the article entitled "Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?", the Scriptures inform us that not only are we filled with the Holy Spirit, but we are sealed by the same as well. This same concept regarding being sealed is also mentioned in the following verses which were also written by the Apostle Paul:

"Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."
2 Corinthians 1:22, KJV

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
Ephesians 4:30, KJV

Derived from the Greek word "sphragizo", the word "sealed" has a variety of meanings. It means to seal something for the purpose of protection, such as from Satan, for example. It also means to confirm or authenticate something. In this case, being sealed with the Holy Spirit appears to signify that we belong to Jesus and our Heavenly Father, because He willingly paid the ransom price for our Redemption. As we saw in part three, the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Ephesians that Jesus purchased us with His own Blood. As a result, we are His possessions. Therefore, Satan has absolutely no rights over us whatsoever. We are actually God's untouchables insofar as our Salvation is concerned. Consider the following verses which confirm these points:

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
Matthew 20:28, KJV

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
Mark 10:45, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
Acts 20:28, KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."
1 Corinthians 7:23, KJV

"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, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."
Ephesians 1:13-14, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

Regarding this same topic concerning being sealed by God, As I discuss in the article called "The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000", you may recall that in the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation, we are informed that 144,000 of the servants of the Lord are sealed prior to God releasing His Wrath upon the inhabitants of the Earth. Consider these verses:

"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand."

Revelation 7:1-8, KJV

Concerning those people who have not accepted Jesus Christ, and thus who are not sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise, their fate is not something which any wise person would want to bring upon themselves, as we see by the following verses:

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads."

Revelation 9:1-4, KJV

Having now shared with you the deep spiritual significance that is concealed within Jesus' Parable of the Ten Virgins, it is time to conclude this series by sharing with you the final two verses which truly serve as the icing on the cake. The verses I am about to share with you clearly confirm why

the Lord rejected those Five Foolish Virgins, why He told them "Verily I say unto you, I know you not", and why He would not allow them in the door after it had been closed.

We have seen that the clay oil lamps represent our very own bodies of flesh. We have also seen that the oil in the lamps symbolizes God's Spirit. We know from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is only imparted to those people who accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. In fact, in the New Testament, it is often referred to as the Spirit of Christ. Finally, we know that it is through the Power of that same Spirit, that God's saved children witness their faith to the world. These two verses inform us how we know that Christ truly dwells in us, and they also inform us of the consequences of not being saved, and not having the Spirit of Christ:

"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."
1 John 4:13, KJV

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."
Romans 8:9, KJV

Let me emphasize that final thought for you:

". . . if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Isn't that simple enough for anyone to understand? The Five Foolish Virgins did not have any oil. They did not have the Spirit of Christ. The reason why they did not have Christ's Spirit, is because they had rejected Him and were not even saved. They apparently thought that they were saved -- just as the proud, self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees were also of the belief that they were righteous, and were saved as a result of their supposed good works and adhering to the Laws of Moses -- however, those Five Foolish Virgins were in fact not saved. That is why the Bridegroom rejected them. He did not know them, and He didn't recognize them as His own sheep. They were not sealed with the Spirit. As we learned in part one, if they had been His own, He would have never rejected them by any means, yet He did.

Think about that for a moment. Even after the Bridegroom left so that he could attend the Marriage Feast, the Five Foolish Virgins still had sufficient time to purchase their oil. They could have been just as ready as the Five Wise Virgins. They could have easily accepted Christ while the Bridegroom was absent. Sadly, they did not do that. They thought that they had all the time in the world to make a decision for Christ, and so they procrastinated. To their shock and surprise, the Bridegroom returned unexpectedly in the middle of the night, and they were simply caught unprepared. It was no one's fault but their own.

What about you, dear friend? Are you likewise still sitting on the fence trying to decide about this Christian faith? Do you still need to be convinced that it is all that it says it is? I know and realize myself that there is a lot within modern Christianity which, quite frankly, is really messed

up. There is rampant hypocrisy, greed, falsehood, pride and self-righteousness, doctrinal division and infighting, sexual perversions of every kind, and other sins. It is shameful and discouraging to see what has become of our faith in these modern times.

As a result, you may think that you have valid reasons for rejecting it. You may feel totally justified in your decision to remain at arms length. However, let me tell you something. No matter how bad Christianity may look on the outside, and regardless of how it is presented to the world by Believers, it still doesn't do one thing to change God's immutable Word, and the truths which are contained in His Word. As we have already seen, that truth reveals that we are all sinners who are in need of a Savior. That truth reveals that Jesus Christ is that Savior. That truth plainly declares that it is only by accepting His loving Sacrifice as the Final Atonement for our sins, and by symbolically being washed in His Blood, that we can be cleansed of our sins, become the recipients of our Heavenly Father's Grace and Mercy, and thus be saved. These truths remain eternal.

God has His time for all of us. His Spirit works in each of our lives at different times, in different ways, and also on different levels. Whether or not now is your time, is really not for me to say. However, as this series has now revealed to you, the last thing that you really want to do is to wait too long, and to procrastinate in your personal decision to accept Jesus Christ. As we learned in part three, one really never knows when his time is up on this planet. We may think that we still have all the time in the world, but you just never know. If, on the other hand, you sense that now is in fact your time to accept Jesus Christ, I invite you to say a simple prayer, such as the following, in which you personally acknowledge your sinful condition, your need for a Savior, and in which you accept Jesus as your Savior. You don't need to say these exact words. This prayer is simply meant to serve as an example:

"Heavenly Father, I know that I am not perfect. I admit that I have made my share of mistakes. I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus is your Son, and that He gave His life on the Cross for my sins. Heavenly Father, I ask You to please forgive me for my sins through the Sacrifice of Your Son, and to grant me Eternal Life. Please fill my life with Your Spirit, and help me to understand Your Word, the Bible. As I do, help me to submit myself to Your Will for my life; help me to live a life which is pleasing in your sight; and as much as is within me, help me to also begin telling others about Your Son, Jesus, so that they may have Eternal Life as well. Thank you Father for hearing my prayer. In Your Son, Jesus's name, I humbly ask. Amen."

With this prayer, I will bring this series to a close. It is my hope that you have found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the

list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server.

A Treasure in Earthen Vessels: Promise of the Spirit
Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?
Are You Saved and Sealed and Healed and Filled?
Dead to the Law: God's Laws Written on Our Hearts
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen
Message to the World
Not Everyone is a Child of God
Once Upon a Time: A True Story
OSAS: Are We Once Saved Always Saved?
Rightly Divide the Word of Truth
Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed
The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?
The Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service
The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

Written by the WordWeaver

wordweaver777@gmail.com
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>