

## Why Only Five Virgins?

We all know how important Matthew 24 is, prophetically, but what we have often failed to realise is its significant relationship to the next chapter; the defining relationship of the *elect* in the resurrection of Matthew 24 to the *virgins* of Matthew 25, who marry Jesus Christ and inherit the Kingdom of God!

Matthew 24:31, 'And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his **elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' Strong's: 'eklectos', 'Usage: chosen out, elect, choice, select, sometimes as subst: of those chosen out by God for the **rendering of special service** to Him.' Notice with what the elect are clothed. Colossians 3:12, 'Therefore, as the **elect** of God, holy and beloved, put on **tender mercies**, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;' These are fruits of the Holy Spirit, different aspects of outgoing concern for others; aspects of agape` love.

Matthew 25:1-10, "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like **ten virgins** who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take along **any extra oil**. But the wise ones took oil in flasks along with their lamps. When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

'No,' said the wise ones, 'or there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

But while they were on their way to buy it, the bridegroom arrived. **Those who were ready** went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut." Berean Study Bible.

Both chapters are about the few; not the many who call themselves 'Christian' or even all those in the true Church who keep the true Sabbath and God's Commandments. (cf. Rev. 12:17) Matthew 7:14, 'For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**.' I think we must realise that the prize of marriage to Jesus Christ is just so great, so almost unimaginable, that Christ's requirements have to be equally high if He is to be able to rely on our deeply felt love for our fellow men and women, and our dedication to our role in and towards His Kingdom.

More shocking still is that only half of those 'virgins', actually enter into marriage with the bridegroom! Consequently, what we need to know is, "What does it take to be called a virgin?" And, "What is it that qualifies only *half* of those virgins to marry Christ?"

We know that we must be obedient to God's commandments, Acts 5:32, 'And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.' Romans 2:13, 'For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.'

But if we want to be *virgins*, we need to take note of the Apostle Paul's warning in 2 Corinthians 2:11, 'For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ. 'But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds **may be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ.' We need to remain chaste, uncorrupted, totally loyal to our Saviour! The key word here is the Greek 'hagnos', of which Word-Studies says, "properly, pure (to the core); virginal; **chaste**, un-**adulterated**." Vine's adds, 'holy, as being free from *admixture* of evil'.

The message is: Take care that you are not being fed false teaching which *diverts* you from your single-hearted faith to Jesus Christ. Ask yourself, "Am I looking directly, and solely to *His* words, [Old and New Testaments] no other authority intervening? **If** there is another authority rivalling Christ's rule in your life, and you want to be counted a spiritual virgin, consider your position very carefully.

*Stay with it* and you will almost certainly commit spiritual adultery, become diverted and corrupted so that you will *not* marry Christ. To prove that, let's look at Revelation 14:1-5,

'Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. *These are the ones who have **not been defiled** with women, for **they are virgins**.* They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.'

Here are those who marry Jesus Christ, taking their Father's and Husband's name after their marriage. They are "not defiled with women" (the teaching of churches which contradict Christ's teaching) because they **follow the Lamb**, 1 Peter 2:21, 'For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might **follow in his steps.**' They were "bought from the men", as it is in the Greek, those who attempted to divert and rule over them, causing them to commit *spiritual adultery*, just as Paul warned!

Sadly, we see the *many* in the churches are simply not virgins, because they look to a man or woman or men who claim authority over what they believe, and how they should act, against Christ's Command (Matthew 20:25-27) based upon teaching which does not always accord with God's word.... An example would be the Pope with many ranks below him in a hierarchical system, even teaching a different Sabbath from Christ, but this Babylonian system is often emulated, sadly even in the Church of God!

So, thankfully now we know what it takes to be called a virgin!.....If you are still not sure, ask yourself, "Am I walking in His steps? Do I do as He did; keep the same Holy Days, keep all His Commandments and follow His pattern, teaching and instructions, displaying the same love and compassion, etc. James 1:17, 'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'

But, *even among the virgins*, Matthew 25:2-3, 'The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil.' NLT.

Jesus Christ hoped *all* the virgins would be fully prepared, but **half** had not noticed that in His word, He asks something **extra** of the *last* generation of this age - *to consider, in their love, the needs of His people Israel who will be invaded, trapped, and enslaved when the Tribulation Starts, so that they might maintain HOPE and survive through the tribulation into his Kingdom.* This is a special service of love, right out of our comfort zone, performed by the **elect**, without which it may be that virtually *no* Israelites would survive! (Cf. Isaiah 40:1-11, and Isaiah 24:6, 'Therefore, a curse consumes the earth. Its people must pay the price for their sin. They are destroyed by fire, and only a few are left alive.')

Now no one can be sure that we *are* that last generation. But look at the signs in the fulfilment of prophecy throughout the Bible, and we cannot deny that we are *near* indeed, and we cannot afford to be caught off guard, Luke 12:45, "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?" Does not the faithful and wise servant *first need to order and obtain that food, be fully prepared so that whenever* it is needed, he can issue it at the proper time rather than just 'say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming.'

God knew that the Church will become Laodicean in their prayer and study at the end of the age. Revelation 3:17, 'For you say, I am rich [spiritually], I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realising that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.' They will become sleepy to the neglect of their responsibilities towards the Kingdom of God, accepting false End-Time scenarios which fail to even include Revelation 14. Most of the watchmen are gently dozing, happy with their their 'good

works', thinking they are spiritually fine with God, as the enemy moves to dash their expectations.

I don't think any of us realizes just how important the Kingdom of God is to our Creator. It is foundational to the Plan of God, which is why Jesus spent so much of His teaching talking about it, illustrating it through His parables, and **Israel is the bedrock of the Kingdom**, physical *and* spiritual Israel, unfashionable as that is, in these days of equality, and it is apparent how deeply loved by God she is, Jeremiah 31:3-4,

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.  
**Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt,**  
O virgin of Israel!’

Which is why **the key chapter of Jeremiah 31 especially verses 6-7**, which, as an Ephraimite watchman, I have written so much about, are so important, not just to Israel, that some Israelites will take hope and courage to survive when all seems lost, but to the **whole world** in God's Plan. Even though Israel has broken the covenants, God will make a new covenant with them when he will “**put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they will be my people,**” verse 33 of that same chapter, and, through them **carry it worldwide**, to the Gentile nations in God's Kingdom!

We have recently taken the Passover, and examined ourselves in preparation, (1Corinthians 11:28) but like the Laodiceans, did we overlook the cry of the **watchman of Ephraim** and the “**Thus saith the Lord**” command of Jeremiah 31:6-7? A command which we cannot hope to carry out *if* it falls to us, without forethought and preparation! I tell you it will be **too late** when the first angel flies (Rev. 14:6-7) if we ignore God's Command, or dismiss it lightly as for the future, as God has prophesied many will, Hosea 9:7-8, ‘**The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac. The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God.**’ Why is this? Why are some scriptures rejected, even God's plain commands, by His ministers? The common denominator is that Satan hates the Kingdom of God as much as God loves it, and his Satanic, insidious broadcast pervades the earth and influences even the virgins!

But God's will, *will* be done. Already, one active COG is picking up on God's instruction of Isaiah 40:2-3, ‘**Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.**’ This Church of God has long had an archaeological dig in Jerusalem and they are at least to be congratulated on planning a witness from Jerusalem, when most of God's Church is still asleep. Now, they need to take note of Isaiah 52 and Jeremiah 31!

Where are the rest of God's Church though? As God says in Isaiah 52:1, "**Awake, awake**", and verse 7: '**How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"**'

This is some of the news about the kingdom of God *which we all believe*, that the *faithful Virgins will* proclaim from Jerusalem, until the Two Witnesses take over at the halfway point in those last seven years, saving the lives of many in Israel and Judah who would otherwise simply give up and perish, without hope. It is a special service of love in obedience to, "**Thus saith the Lord...**"

Not all will be able to go to Jerusalem. Many of us will be too old or infirm, but we can support those willing and able to '**come out of Babylon**' and obey, with our prayers, knowledge, experience, help in **the planning** and yes, our financial help. Those who go will take their wealth with them to do God's work, and those unable can contribute theirs *when the time comes*, for it will be expensive to broadcast that message, treasure that will be taken from those of us left behind in captivity anyway, and let's face it, only one tenth in Israel (US and UK etc.) will survive, Isaiah 6:13, '**If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel's stump will be a holy seed.**' But the faithful virgins unable to go will not be not concerned. Their treasure will be safe in heaven, and though they may be persecuted and killed, it will be but a sleep of a few months to their Resurrection!

So, **when** the midnight cry goes out at that amazing world-wide proclamation of the First Angel, Revelation 14:6-7, for that is the first sign of the Bridegroom's coming, *what is it* that qualifies only *half* of the virgins?

We all need to ask ourselves: "Have we ignored God's "**Awake, awake,**" in Isaiah 52! "Do we share God's great love and compassion for captive Israel in Jeremiah 31?" "Can we *ever* afford to ignore God's clear "**Thus saith the Lord**" command in Jeremiah 31, even if at this stage we can only plan and prepare?

You have read God's plain command. He is not a God who changes his mind, and only those who obey His commands will be among the '5 virgins' to whom the door opens in Matthew 25.

The nations of Israel have brought God's coming punishment upon themselves because they have forgotten God and ignored His words. Let us not make the same tragic mistake!

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