

## THE 10 VIRGINS

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)*

We do not lay claim to a new light but rather, we are attempting to repeat truths which have been handed down to us from God through His Divine Word. The Bible is its best commentary. Before we look elsewhere for illumination, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to a better understanding of the verse or verses in question as we research all the passages in the Bible which deal with that particular subject. One of the tools you will find useful in your quest for understanding the scriptures is a good concordance. If you do not have a comfortable working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek, perhaps you would consider “Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible” or “Young’s Analytical Concordance To The Bible”. In addition, excellent Bible software programs are available for your computer. These software programs have Hebrew and Greek dictionaries that, in many cases, allow you a better understanding of the intent of a particular verse or passage. There are several factors which may hinder you from profiting from this paper. The first hindrance may be pride. You may have spent a great deal of time in personal Bible study and may have shared your spiritual views for many years. Precepts we share in this paper may not always agree with the opinions you hold sacred and the tenets you have been teaching. It is our intent to provide an abundance of scripture that will document and support the truth we are sharing. The natural tendency of our flesh, however, is to reject anything which differs from our own opinion or from the opinion of someone we highly respect. Our material body has a natural reluctance to question our own beliefs and a resistance to change our views. Some of the principles we share may not always agree with the favorite commentary that you hold so dear. Please bear in mind; however, the opinions in your favorite commentary (or Bible software) may be based upon the views which were reached through examination of only a few scriptures rather than being based upon all of the scriptures which deal with a particular subject. We also expose ourselves to error when we try to apply scripture dealing with one particular group such as the Jews to a different group such as the members of God’s

local churches or perhaps to the members of the Family of God. Does God require every man who is a member of the Family of God today to be circumcised? It is certainly a command in the Bible but it applied only to the Hebrew Theocracy. There is authority and there are promises given to God's local churches that were not given to all the members of the Family of God. Did God give every member of the Family of God the authority to baptize those they lead to Christ, whether the soul winner is a member of a local, scriptural church or not? Or was that authority only given to Christ's local churches? Suppose an applicant told your church they had been baptized in a swimming pool by a soul winner who had never been a member of a local, scriptural church. Suppose that soul winner, themselves, had never been baptized? Would your church recognize that as scriptural baptism and register their name as a member of your church? I suspect you would insist that applicant be baptized by the authority of your church before their name was registered as a member. Yes, there is authority and promises given to Christ's local, scriptural churches that were not given to all the members of the Family of God. It is important that we be aware of who is being addressed since not all instructions in the Bible were given to all people.

### **The Ten Virgins – Mathew 25:1-14**

At the beginning of Matthew chapter 24, the disciples of Jesus were bragging about the beauty of Herod's temple. Jesus states that there will be a day when every stone will be torn down and not stone will be left upon another. The disciples waited until they got Him alone on the Mount of Olives and asked Him three questions.

- 1-When will all the stones be torn down?
- 2-What shall be the sign of thy coming?
- 3-What shall be the signs of the end of the world?

*" 1 And Jesus went forth and went away from the temple, and his disciples came to [him] to point out to him the buildings of the temple. 2 And he answering said to them, Do ye not see*

*all these things? Verily I say to you, Not a stone shall be left here upon a stone which shall not be thrown down. 3 And as he was sitting upon the mount of Olives the disciples came to him privately, saying, Tell us, (1) when shall these things be, and (2) what is the sign of thy coming and (3) (what is the sign of) [the] completion of the age? 4 And Jesus answering said to them, See that no one mislead you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ, and they shall mislead many. 6 But ye will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that ye be not disturbed; for all [these things] must take place, but it is not yet the end. 7 For nation shall rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. 8 But all these [are the] beginning of throes." Matthew 24:1-8 (Darby)*

For the rest of chapters 24 and 25, Jesus answers those three questions. In Matthew 24:44-51, He urges everyone to be ready for His return. *"44So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. 45"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 24:44-51*

As we begin the next chapter, Jesus is still speaking of being ready when He returns to get His Father's children. We find in Matthew 25:1-13, *"1At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9"'"No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those*

who sell oil and buy (**ἀγοράζω**-pronounced "ag-or-ad'-zo" in English) some for yourselves. 10 "But while they were on their way to buy (**ἀγοράζω**-pronounced "ag-or-ad'-zo" in English) the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." *Matthew 25:113 (King James Version)*

One of the meanings of the Greek word "**ἀγοράζω**" is to redeem something from someone who deals in such things. The Complete Word Study Dictionary tells us that the Greek word "**ἀγοράζω**" is used, among other places, in *1 Corinthians 6:20*; *1 Corinthians 7:23*; and *Rev. 5:9*, (printed below). The Complete Word Study Dictionary tells us, "The Greek word "**ἀγοράζω**" refers to the consequence of something or someone having been bought and now the buyer has the right of possession. In the redemptive work of Christ the idea is that Christ, by offering Himself for us as due satisfaction, freed us from our liability in paying it ourselves. He, having paid the price, binds us to Himself."

" 20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*" *1 Corinthians 6:20 (King James Version)*

" 23 *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*" *1 Corinthians 7:23 (King James Version)*

" 9 *And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*" *Revelation 5:9-10 (King James Version)*

In Revelation 4:1-2, John describes what will happen at the catching up or as some people call it, the Rapture, when Christ returns to get His Father's children. "*After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."* 2*At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.*"

**PLEASE NOTE:**

If the bride at a Jewish wedding was a widow, the celebration or marriage supper lasted **3** days.

If the bride at a Jewish wedding was a virgin, the celebration lasted **7** days.

Paul wanted every church he corresponded with to remain spotless and faithful to their future husband, Jesus Christ. " *1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*" *2 Corinthians 11:1-2* In *Revelation 19:7-9*, Christ revealed some of the facts about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that He was referring to when He spoke about the ten virgins in *Matthew 25:1-13*. *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place in the Third Heaven during the seven years of great tribulation on this earth. " 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give glory to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath prepared herself. 8 And it is granted to her that she should clothe herself with fine linen, glittering and white. For the fine linen are the justifications of saints. 9 And he said to me: Write: Blessed are they that are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith to me: These words of God are true."* *Revelation 19:7-9 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)*

In *Matthew 22:1-14*, Jesus also told us about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. "*1 Jesus used some more stories to teach the people. He said, 2 "God's kingdom is like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. 3 He invited some people to the feast. When it was ready, the king sent his servants to tell the people to come. But they refused to come to the king's feast. 4 Then the king sent some more servants. He said to them, 'I have already invited the people. So tell them that my feast is ready. I have killed my best bulls and calves to be eaten. Everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'* *5 "But when the servants told the people to come, they refused to listen. They all went to do other things. One went to work in his field, and another went to his business. 6 Some of the other people grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. 7 The king was very angry. He sent his army to kill those who murdered his servants. And the army burned their city. 8 "After that the king said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready. I invited those people, but they were not good enough to come to my feast. 9 So go to the street corners and invite everyone you see. Tell them to come to my feast.'* *10 So the servants went into*

*the streets. They gathered all the people they could find, good and bad alike, and brought them to where the wedding feast was ready. And the place was filled with guests. 11 "When the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in the right clothes for a wedding. 12 The king said, 'Friend, how were you allowed to come in here? You are not wearing the right clothes.' But the man said nothing. 13 So the king told some servants, 'Tie this man's hands and feet. Throw him out into the darkness, where people are crying and grinding their teeth with pain.' 14 "Yes, many people are invited. But only a few are chosen." Matthew 22:1-14 (Easy-To-Read Version)*

**NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14 printed above.**

1 – The first person we call your attention to is the Father. It is God the Father who sent His only begotten Son, who gave His life as a payment for the sin debts for everyone who accepts Him as their Savior. It is the Father who is the Eternal Controller of all things. Let me hasten to point out that there is one Jehovah God who reveals Himself to mankind as the Father, as the Son and as the Holy Spirit in three different and distinct ways. Since the human mind cannot understand how Jehovah God could be three and yet be one, many people have chosen to deny the Trinity. Suffice it to say, at this time, it is the Father who has prepared for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. " 1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables: 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son." Matthew 22:1-2 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

**NOTE AGAIN – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.**

2 – The second person we call your attention to is the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. " 1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2 For I am jealous over

*you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:1-2*

Please note that Christ did not consider the disciples of John the Baptist as part of *"the children of the bridechamber"*. " 14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? 15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast. Matthew 9:14-15

That group we call the "Bride of Christ" (who are destined for the bride chamber) is composed of all of the scripturally baptized members of all the local New Testament churches, beginning with the church in Jerusalem. The children of the bride chamber are the scripturally baptized members of those churches who, as a group, make up the Bride of Christ. For further information about the Bride of Christ you may read the paper "The Bride and The Wedding Guests" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>. "18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." Acts 15:18 (King James Version)

### **NOTE AGAIN – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.**

3- The third group we call your attention to are the servants.

The Father, who is the Eternal Controller of all things, predestined before He created the world that His Son would give Himself as a payment for the sin debts of everyone who accepts Him as their Savior. " 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it,

everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain." Revelation 13:4-8 (English Standard Version)

The Lord has always used His children as servants. The Lord's servants are called to proclaim His plan of salvation, teach His word and deliver His messages. " 23 *But this thing I commanded them, saying: Hearken to my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people: and walk ye in all the way that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you. 24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear: but walked in their own will, and in the perversity of their wicked heart: and went backward and not forward, 25 From the day that their fathers came out of the land of Egypt, even to this day. And I have sent to you all my servants the prophets from day to day, rising up early and sending. 26 And they have not hearkened to me: nor inclined their ear: but have hardened their neck, and have done worse than their fathers."* Jeremiah 7:23-26 (DouayRheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

" 29 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. 33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? 34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: 35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. 36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. 37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. 39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."* Matthew 23:29-39 (King James Version)

**NOTE AGAIN – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.**

4 – The fourth group we call your attention to are the friends of the Bridegroom, that is, the wedding guests. *"26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. 28You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' 29The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30He must become greater; I must become less."* John 3:26-30

John the Baptist, by his own testimony above, said that he was a friend of the bridegroom, not a member of the Bride. That would make him an invited wedding guest. It would not make him part of the Bride. What was the one thing that John the Baptist did not receive while he was on this earth? SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM! John the Baptist was given the authority to baptize others but he lost his life before he could receive scriptural baptism by the authority of the only other person who had been given that authority, JESUS CHRIST. *"1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 2When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 7As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12From the*

**days of John the Baptist until now**, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. *Matthew 11:1-12*

What was the kingdom that John the Baptist was not a member of? If it was the kingdom of the saved (the Family of God), Jesus was saying that John the Baptist was not saved. On the other hand, if Jesus was saying that John the Baptist was a member of the wedding guests rather than a member of the Bride, it would agree with the rest of the scriptures including Revelation 21. In Revelation 21 we learn that there will be people living outside the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. They will enter into the city to worship the Lord through the 12 gates. Who are those living outside the city on the New Earth? They certainly will not be the lost. They will be the friends of the Bridegroom-the wedding guests. Part of the wedding guests will be those who were saved before the organization of the local church in Jerusalem by Jesus Christ. They never received scriptural baptism because. The other part of that group will be those who have been saved since the organization of the church in Jerusalem, but have never answered the call to serve Him as a member of one of Christ's local New Testament churches when He called them to do so. They never received scriptural baptism, the key to scriptural church membership. *"9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.... 21I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."* *Revelation 21:9-10; 22-27*

Again, we would like to point out that in Revelation 21 we learn that there will be people living outside the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. They will enter into the city to worship the Lord through the 12 gates. Who are those living outside the city on the New Earth? They certainly will not be the lost. They will be the friends of the Bridegroom-the wedding

guests. Please remember that Christ said those the king invited to the wedding feast were invited to be wedding guests, they were not invited to be the bride.

**NOTE – Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14.**

5 – The fifth group I call your attention to in Matthew 22:1-14 is the Bride, those who have scriptural baptism and are members of one of God's scriptural churches. *"1"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3* You may read the 13th chapter of John to see that Jesus Christ waited until He had His disciples (the local church in Jerusalem) alone to make that promise in John 14:1-3. Jesus was telling them that although His Father had many dwelling places, He was going to prepare a special place for them to dwell in so that they (His Bride) would dwell together with Him through eternity. The only scriptures that later speak of a prepared place are found in Revelation 21 where it describes the Holy City Jerusalem.

The disciples of John the Baptist were just as saved as we are. They had repented of their sins as they looked forward in faith and had asked that the promised Messiah pay their sin debt just as we have looked backward in faith. But not all of the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus when He called to them to be one of His associates and become "fishers of men". If you know of any scripture where Jesus promised the disciples who remained with John the Baptist that He was going to prepare a special place for them, please consider it your duty to share it with us. *"9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared...." Revelation 21:9-10a*

IN MATTHEW 25:1-10, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE BRIDE WILL BE INSIDE WHEN THE DOORS ARE SHUT AT THE WEDDING FEAST. PLEASE NOTE,

HOWEVER, THAT MATTHEW 25:1-10 DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE BRIDE BUT TEACHES US ABOUT THE WEDDING GUESTS AND ABOUT THOSE WHO WILL MISS THE WEDDING FEAST BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT BE PROPERLY PREPARED WHEN JESUS CHRIST CATCHES UP THE SAVED AT THAT EVENT THAT SOME PEOPLE CALL "THE RAPTURE".

*"1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ 7“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ 9“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ 10“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut."*

### **Two groups of virgins are mentioned in Matthew 25:1-10.**

1st group- the wise virgins. Those who **had** made preparation for the coming of Christ (salvation) but will not be a member of the Bride. Please remember that Jesus did not say any of the 10 virgins were going to be the bride. They intended to attend the wedding as **witnesses or wedding guests.** They did not expect to be the bride.

2nd group- the foolish virgins. Those who **had not** made proper preparation for the coming of Christ. They do not have salvation and consequently they do not have the Holy Spirit as their Paraclete. Please recall that oil is a type or picture of the Holy Spirit. " 25 *These things have I spoken to you, abiding with you. 26 But the Paraclete, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name (by my authority), he will teach you all things, and bring all things to your*

*mind, whatsoever I shall have said to you." John 14:25-26 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)*

So we find that in Matthew 22:1-14, Jesus was giving us insight about the wedding guests who will be at the wedding supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9), not insight about the Bride of Christ. *"1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:1-14*

When Jesus told us in Matthew **25:1-10** that the foolish virgins had trusted a false plan of salvation, He explained that they did not possess the Holy Spirit. Again, oil is a type or picture of the Holy Spirit that we receive at the moment of salvation. Please remember that most of those Jesus was speaking to in Matthew **22:1-14** were lost people who thought they were going to make it to the wedding feast in the 3rd Heaven. This fact is seen in Matthew **21:45**. *" <sup>45</sup> And when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, **they perceived that he spake of them.** <sup>46</sup> And when they sought to lay hold on him, they feared the multitudes, because they took him for a prophet. <sup>1</sup> And Jesus answered and spake again in parables unto them, saying, <sup>2</sup> The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king, who made a marriage feast for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the marriage feast: and*

they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them that are bidden, Behold, I have made ready my dinner; my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come to the marriage feast. <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise; <sup>6</sup> and the rest laid hold on his servants, and treated them shamefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> But the king was wroth; and he sent his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they that were bidden were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go ye therefore unto the partings of the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage feast. <sup>10</sup> And those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup> But when the king came in to behold the guests, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding-garment: <sup>12</sup> and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding-garment? And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and cast him out into the outer darkness; there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few chosen. Matthew 21:45 through Matthew 22:14 (American Standard Version)

The only way a person will attend the Marriage Supper in the Third Heaven is to be part of the group who is caught up to the Third Heaven prior to the Marriage Supper taking place. One of the points Jesus was making in the parable we find in Matthew 22:1-14, was that many who think they will be attending the Marriage Supper are going to end up in outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. They will not have the proper wedding garment. They will not have the righteousness of Christ by exercising complete and saving faith in Jesus Christ. They will seek their salvation through the Messiah plus by living a good life or joining a church or by being baptized rather than depending completely upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay their sin debt.

We find in Revelation 7:13-14 that John saw that those who are saved during the Great Tribulation were wearing white robes. I suspect that all those who are saved by the blood of the Lamb will wear white robes. " <sup>10</sup> But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' <sup>12</sup> "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'" Matthew 25:10-12

## WHAT IS THE PLAN AT THE CATCHING UP?

One thing is sure. Not everyone who preaches in Christ's name (claiming they are preaching by Christ's authority), casts out devils in His name (claiming they are casting out devils by Christ's authority) or done other works in His name (claiming they are doing other works by Christ's authority) will go in when the door is opened. *"13 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. 15"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" Matthew 7:13-23*

*"1After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 2At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it." Revelation 4:1-2*

THE BASIC QUESTION THAT YOU AND I MUST ANSWER IS, IF EVERYONE IS A MEMBER OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, WHO ARE THE WEDDING GUESTS IN THE PARABLES THAT JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT?

Again, Please Note - Five people or groups are mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14. In the parable Jesus taught you had:

1- A Father- God the Father

2- A Groom- Jesus Christ

3- A Bride

4- Servants

5- Wedding Guests

*"1Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4"Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 5"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. 13"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14"For many are **invited**, but few are **chosen**."*

**Are you sure you are prepared to leave at the catching up or will you be left behind?**

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV)*

Yours In Christ,

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