



"THE 41 PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST"

28 general parables and 13 kingdom of heaven parables

Parable #21 – "WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS"

READ [Matthew 25:1-4,5-8,9-12,13](#)

The 12th of the 13 kingdom of heaven parables

BACKGROUND:

In 445BC, with **one Bible week** equating to **seven years** (a prophetic year being 360 days), God commanded that **seventy weeks** each of **7 years**, would be determined upon Israel, that is ... **70 weeks x 7 years = 490 years** ([Daniel 9:24-26,27](#)).

This time frame is broken into **four** time periods of (a) **7 weeks** + (b) **62 weeks** + (c) the mystery church age of about 2,000 years + (d) **1 week = 70 weeks** and is explained as follows:

#1. **Seven** weeks of years is **7 x 7 = 49** years ... the time it takes to restore and build Jerusalem from 445BC to 396BC.

#2. **Sixty two** weeks of years is **62 x 7 = 434** years ... the time from the building of Jerusalem in 396BC to Christ being cut off at the cross in 32AD.

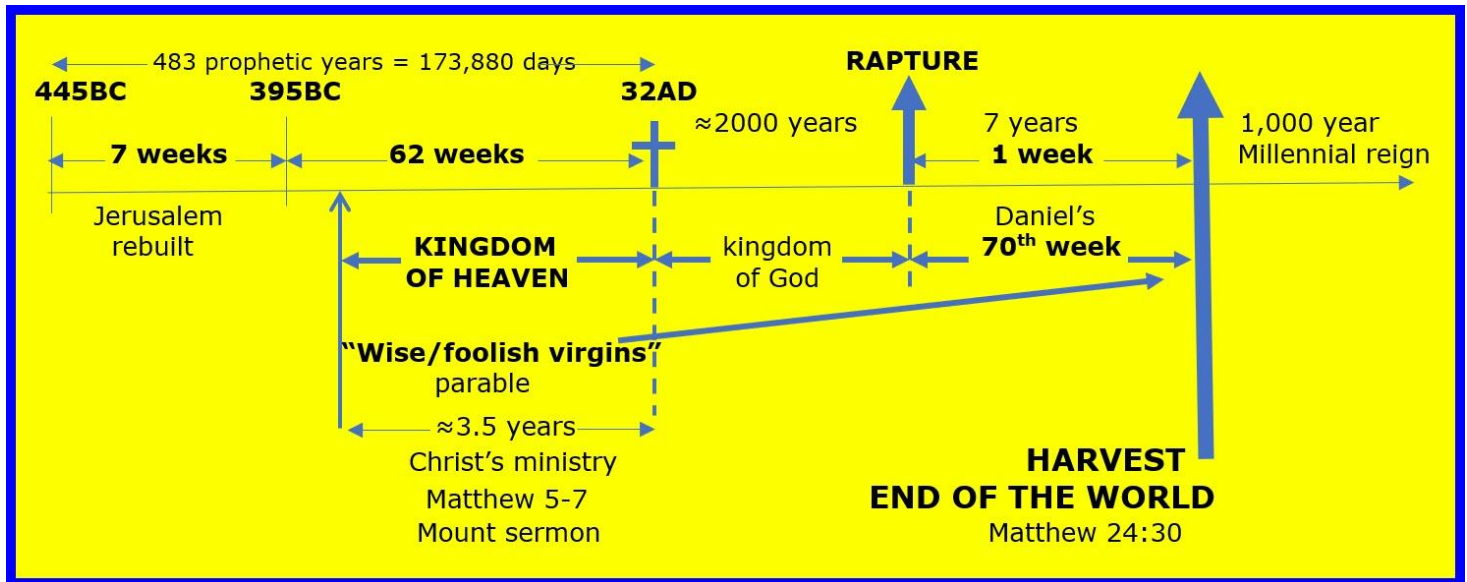
#3. The church age of approximately 2,000 years

#4. **One week** of years is **1 x 7 = 7** years ... this is the seven years of tribulation of God's wrath upon the earth, that takes place after the rapture ... called **Daniel's 70th week**.

The following **Timeline** will help (not drawn to scale):

[DANIEL 9:24-27](#)

*"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city ... from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be **seven weeks**, and **threescore and two weeks** ... after **threescore and two weeks** shall Messiah be cut off ... he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week** ..."*



THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS" [Matthew 25:1-4,5-8,9-12,13](#)

"V1 Then shall the **kingdom of heaven be likened** unto **ten virgins**, which **took their lamps**, and went forth to **meet the bridegroom**. V2 And **five of them were wise**, and **five were foolish**. V3 They that were **foolish** took their lamps, and **took no oil** with them: v4 But the **wise took oil** in their vessels with their lamps. V5 While the **bridegroom tarried**, they all **slumbered and slept**. V6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the **bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him**. V7 Then all those **virgins arose**, and **trimmed their lamps**. V8 And the **foolish** said unto the wise, **Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out**. V9 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**. V10 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**. V11 Afterward came also the **other virgins**, saying, Lord, Lord, **open to us**. V12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**. V13 Watch therefore, for ye **know neither the day nor the hour** wherein the **Son of man cometh**." ([Matthew 25:1-13](#))

1. This parable is **salvation by works** ... and therefore has **no** direct application to the dispensation of the kingdom of God we are currently under ... that is "Have you been good enough to be allowed into the wedding ceremony?"
2. The application of this parable is the time just before the Son of man comes back ... his second coming (Revelation chapter 19). This **NOT** the Son of God coming back for the Christians at the rapture.
3. This is Daniel's 70th week, a Jewish dispensation, and takes place in the seven years of tribulation ... and heating up toward the end of the seven years. **It will be a TIME OF WORKS**. This will be the time of the kingdom of heaven ... see the above diagram.
4. This parable tells of the Jew, coming to a wedding ceremony, who prepares properly in **advance**, and those that leave it to the **last minute**.

An example would be as follows:

The **unprepared** are like the overweight and terribly unfit 65 year olds, deciding to enter a marathon with only a couple of days training. They can't beg, borrow or steal the necessary fitness needed in such a short time.

The **prepared** are **also** like the overweight and terribly unfit 45 year olds, who **also** decide to enter a marathon race. The difference is that they will get fit and lose weight with the proper preparations ... over a long time ... and in plenty of time.

ALL INVITED	ACCEPTED	REJECTED
<p>Prepared virgins with oil</p> <p>because they</p> <p>believeth (continuously) in Christ as their Messiah fulfilling the law on their behalf</p> <p>plus</p> <p>on-going animal blood for the remission of past sins</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>These will enter Abrahams' bosom upon death.</p> <p>Will be taken up into heaven.</p>	
<p>Unprepared virgins with no oil</p> <p>because they believe (continually, on and off) in Christ as their Messiah fulfilling the law on their behalf plus animal blood every now and then</p>		<p>YES</p> <p>These will not enter Abraham's bosom upon death.</p> <p>They end up in hell.</p>

EXPLANATION OF PARABLE

<p><i>Then shall the kingdom of heaven</i></p>	<p>The kingdom of heaven is not the kingdom of God into which unbelievers are born.</p> <p>Today, when unbelievers get saved, they are placed immediately into Christ's body, and as Christ is God, his body is the kingdom of God.</p>
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	<p>Now as Christ sits in heaven, the kingdom of God is in heaven.</p> <p>When Christ was on earth, he preached the kingdom of heaven rules of Matthew 5-7. To those that believeth (believed continuously) in him, that he would fulfil the kingdom of heaven works, as contained in the sermon on the mount, combined with animal blood for the remission of past sins, they would first go to Abraham's bosom upon death, and then be taken into heaven after the cross.</p>
be likened	They are not virgins as we know the term. They are like virgins.
unto ten	<p>The number ten is used to represent Israel.</p> <p>Israel is a woman (Rev 12:6) with her estimation (worth) being ten shekels (Lev 27:5)</p> <p>ten brothers go down to Egypt to buy corn (Gen 42:3)</p> <p>ten curtains of fine linen in the temple (Ex 26:1)</p> <p>ten temptations (Num 14:22)</p> <p>ten commandments (Deut 10:4)</p>
virgins	<p>They are not virgins as we know the term.</p> <p>These virgins are not female or male.</p> <p>They simply represent Israel who is called a virgin, even though they are sinful.</p> <p>These virgins represent a sinful Israel.</p> <p>Now God uses the term 'virgin' to describe the sweetness and the loveliness of the children of Israel as his chosen nation.</p> <p>The term 'virgin' used to show Israel's enemy how God loved Israel, despite their being a sinful nation, and how much he despised the other nations that would harm her (2Ki 19:21; Is37:22, Isa47:1; Jer 14:17, Jer18:13 , Jer 31:4, Jer 46:11)</p> <p>The black Shulamite woman in the Song of Solomon, is not a virgin, but is considered by God to be like a virgin, that is, one to be married to a husband. Although having had other men, she now rejects the advances of the king, as she waits for her</p>

shepherd lover to take her away. Much like the unfaithful Israel in the tribulation, sinful Israel, having run after other gods, waits for her Lord to open her eyes ([Zech 12:10](#)).

which took their lamps

Taking their lamps is a work.

It was an **individual** responsibility to keep oil in their own lamps.

Lamps hold oil and oil represents the Holy Ghost.

Aaron, when consecrated as the chief priest, had oil poured over him representing the Holy Ghost ([Ex 29:7](#)).

Christ, replacing Aaron, as the new high priest, has the dove from heaven, representing the Holy Ghost, come down upon him ([Matt 3:16](#)).

Lamps represent the bodies of the individual virgins.

Those virgins with no oil represent having no Holy Ghost.

Those virgins with oil represent having the Holy Ghost.

As we shall see, the **foolish virgins** were unprepared and lazy.

Indeed, the wise had also fallen asleep, but were prepared and ready when awakened.

How could virgins make sure they had oil, that is, the Holy Ghost? Two things.

1. Do their best with the works requirements outlined in Matthew chapters five through seven, while continuously believing that Christ was fulfilling every day these laws on their behalf.

2. Attending on-going animal blood sacrifice for the remission of their past sins.

Because the bridegroom delayed in coming, they all fell asleep.

	So when the bridegroom arrives, the foolish are not prepared with the works required for the kingdom of heaven, or indeed, have been diligent about the remission of their sins. The wise are prepared.
<i>and went forth to meet</i>	This is a work. Think of it as a sort of 'interview', such that the bridegroom could pass judgment on their suitability.
<i>the bridegroom.</i>	The man who will groom the bride. This is Jesus Christ as the Son of man who preaches the kingdom of heaven gospel, the rules, the regulations and the works of Matthew chapters 5-7
<i>And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.</i>	<p>Five simply represents a choice to be made. It does not stand for an actual number or that half of the virgins will get into the marriage ceremony, or that half of Israel will enter the wedding ceremony.</p> <p>Five and five, half and half, simply represent a choice to be made, a blessing or curse, as at Mt Gerizim and at Mt Ebal (Deut 27:12-13)</p> <p>Half the candlesticks on the right and half on the left (2Chron 4:7) represent Israel's constantly having to choose with a 'Yes' or 'No'.</p>
<i>They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.</i>	<p>The foolish went to meet with the bridegroom with no preparation. Something akin to the mocking and scornful masses that wanted to get on board Noah's ark.</p> <p>The wise were the opposite and were prepared to keep the works of the mount sermon as best they could, while continuously believing that Christ would fulfil all the sermon on the mount laws on their behalf, along with blood sacrifices for past sins.</p> <p>Indeed the fulfillment of both 'mountain laws', those of Sinai and those in Matthew 5-7, were needed.</p>
<i>While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.</i>	The bridegroom hadn't arrived according to their timing. They all were nodding off and sleeping. Their spirit may have been willing but their flesh was weak (Matt 25:41). But some were prepared even though asleep.

<i>And at midnight</i>	Midnight is the time that is least expected, as to be caught unawares as the LORD goes into Egypt to slay the firstborn (Ex 11:4). Those with blood on the lintels were prepared even though they slept; Ruth at midnight (Ruth 3:8); or being ready to sing praises at midnight (Ps 119:62 ; Acts 16:25).
<i>there was a cry made</i>	A cry signifies a loud public notice or proclamation
<i>Behold, the bridegroom cometh</i>	That the bridegroom was on his way.
<i>go ye out to meet him.</i>	A command. A work.
<i>Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.</i>	Everyone of them got up, and all inspected and prepared their lamps to see if there was any oil in them. That is, had they put into practice, the best they could, the strict requirements demanded in Matthew 5-7, while continuously believing that Christ would fulfil all the law on their behalf, along with blood sacrifices for past sins.
<i>And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.</i>	<p>No oil meant no Holy Ghost.</p> <p>“Can we borrow some of your Holy Ghost? Can you give us some Holy Ghost?”</p> <p>They may have, at one time, been zealous for the Lord, much like the stony ground and the thorny ground, but the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and those without roots had taken away their love for the Lord.</p>
<i>But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you:</i>	<p>Having the Holy Ghost is an individual thing and cannot be borrowed from another.</p> <p>Similar to Simon wanting to buy the Holy Ghost power from the apostles (Acts 8:18-21,22)</p>
<i>but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.</i>	<p>Who could sell the Holy Ghost? Answer: No-one could.</p> <p>The foolish virgins were asked to take seriously the following requirements and buy/earn/work at these things, while also continuously believing that Christ was fulfilling these things on their behalf.</p>

Righteousness **needed to exceed** the Pharisees ([Matt 5:20](#)).
No oaths using heaven's name ([Matt 5:33](#))
Don't pay back evil for evil ([Matt 5:38-44](#)) but go the extra mile ([Matt 5:41](#))
 Give **alms** in secret ([Matt 6:1-4](#))
Pray in secret ([Matt 6:5-8](#))
Forgive others or God won't forgive you ([Matt 6:14-1](#))
Fast in secret ([Matt 6:16-18](#))
 No **hoarding** up **money** or **goods** ([Matt 6:19-21, 24](#))
 No worrying about **food and drink** ([Matt 6:25-28, 29-32, 33](#))
 Take no **thought** about tomorrow ([Matt 6:34](#))
 No **hypocrisy** ([Matt 7:1-4, 5](#))

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. [Matthew 7:14](#)

And while **they went to buy**, the bridegroom came; ... **they that were ready** went in with him to the marriage: and **the door was shut**.

While they were preparing, that which they should have done previously, they missed getting into the marriage ceremony.

They were locked out as the bridegroom didn't know them.

Christ locks out the stony and the thorny ground people.

The wise went in, and the door was then shut like **Noah's ark**. No-one else could get in.

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**.

These were the foolish who had gone off to get the oil, the Holy Ghost.

These may have included those that had done wonderful works, prophesied and cast out devils ([Matt 7:22](#)) but not as the Lord wanted.

They did it in their own strength and not with the Holy Ghost.

These were the ones that **had not taken seriously the works required** and the length of time, approximately **three and a half years**, of Christ's kingdom of heaven ministry to the Jews.

*Watch therefore, for ye know **neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.***

This is a reference to both the 1st and 2nd comings of the Lord.

TODAY'S APPLICATION:

Dear Reader, there is an application for today.
It is very simple.

Are you ready for the return of the Son of God to catch you up into the clouds?

Have you been saved?

Do you have eternal security?

There are many saying "Well yes, nobody is perfect ... but God looks at your heart, and as long as you are doing your best, you'll get into heaven. The foolish virgins has the best of intentions!"

But where is their scripture to back this up? **THEY DON'T HAVE ONE ... AND IF THEY DO ... IT'S FROM THE WRONG DISPENSATION!**

Today?

No need to fix your lamps or run around trying to get some Holy Ghost

It's all been done by Christ 2,000 years ago.

All the perfect works have been done.

The perfect blood has been shed.

2,000 years ago all your sins were paid for.

The oil ... the Holy Ghost is readily available upon believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

You might be saying "How can I be a wise virgin?"

Simple ...

"Dear God, **help me!**

I keep doing things that I don't want to do.

It's like there's a **criminal** inside of me making me do things I hate doing!

I **hate** myself! I'm a **sinner!**

It's like I'm a **schizophrenic** ... there's two sides to me.

I want to do the right thing but I can't!

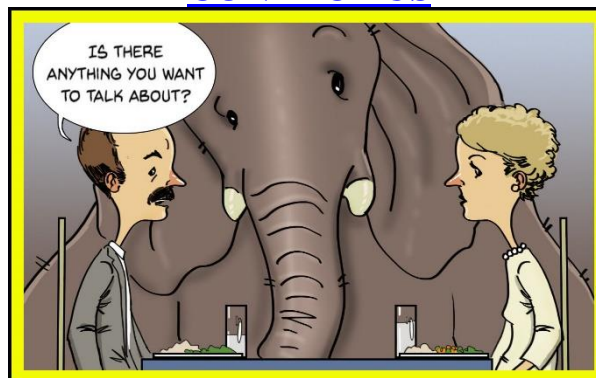
I want to be good! You have to set me **free** from my sins!
 They're killing me!
 I've got this monkey on my back! The black dog keeps hounding me!
 You said if I believe that **Jesus died for my sins** ... you can save me.
 It's like I'm in this **body of death**. [I can't help myself. Save me!](#)"

Harley Hitchcock
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