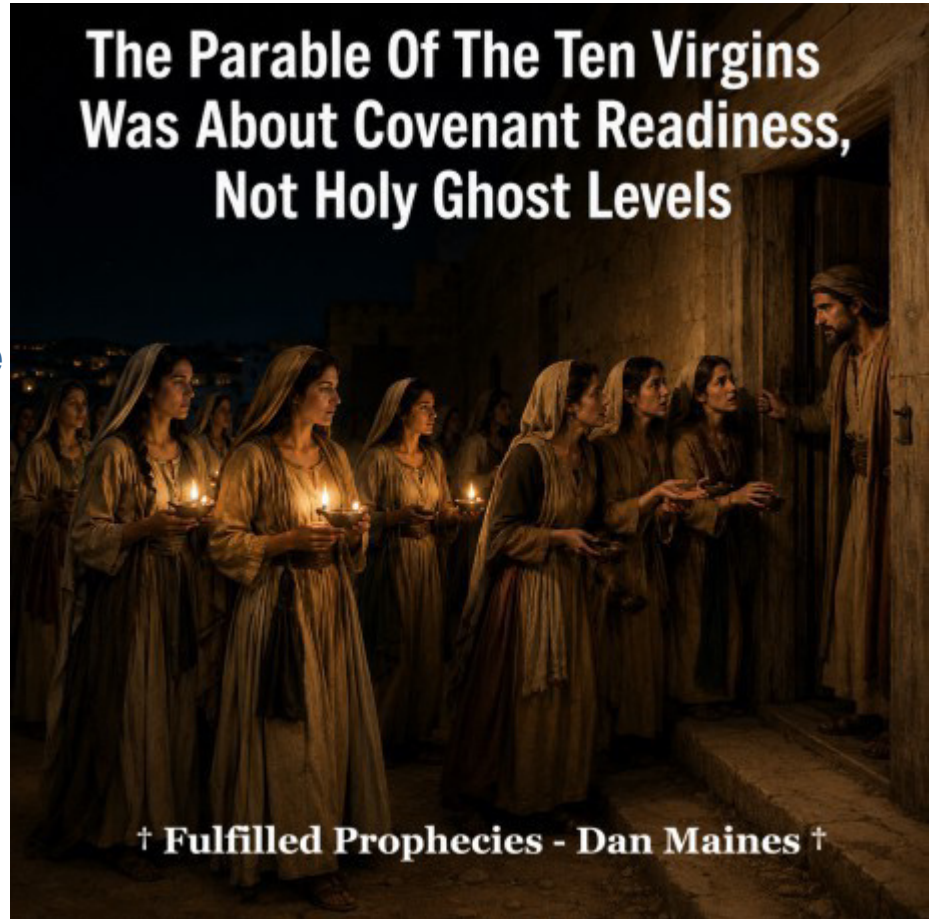


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**The Parable Of The Ten Virgins Was About Covenant Readiness, Not Holy Ghost Levels**



By Dan Maines

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## Introduction

† Many people were taught that the parable of the ten virgins was teaching that believers must stay spiritually charged up with enough Holy Ghost oil before Jesus can physically return. But that interpretation creates major problems with the actual text. (Matthew 25:1-13)

† All ten virgins slept and slumbered. If sleeping represents spiritual failure, then every single one failed equally. Yet five entered the wedding feast and five were shut out. The issue was never about who slept and who stayed awake physically. (Matthew 25:5-12)

† The parable was about covenant readiness during the last days of the old covenant age before the judgment coming of Christ against Jerusalem in AD 70. It was directed toward Israel and those awaiting the kingdom fulfillment. (Matthew 24:1-34; Luke 21:20-22)

† Jesus was warning His generation to be prepared for the coming transition between the old covenant world and the fully established new covenant kingdom. (Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 8:13)

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil with them; but the prudent ones took oil in flasks with their lamps. Now while the groom was delaying, they all became drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there finally was a shout: 'Behold, the groom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. But the foolish virgins said to the prudent ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' However, the prudent ones answered, 'No, there most certainly would not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the groom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. Yet later, the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Be on the alert then,

because you do not know the day nor the hour.

† Jesus gave this parable directly in the Olivet Discourse context where He was warning about the coming judgment upon that generation. (Matthew 24:1-34)

† The statement Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened connects this parable directly to the events He had just described in Matthew 24 concerning Jerusalem's destruction and His coming in judgment. (Matthew 24:1-3)

† The wise virgins represent those who were spiritually prepared and faithful to Christ during the transition out of the old covenant age. The foolish virgins represent those connected outwardly to the covenant people but lacking true readiness. (Romans 2:28-29)

† Oil was often connected to consecration, light, and covenant blessing, but the parable never says the oil was the Holy Spirit itself. That's an assumption added later into the story. (Psalm 119:105; Zechariah 4:1-6)

† If oil represented a fluctuating amount of the Holy Spirit, then the wise virgins would've been selfish for refusing to share. But the point was covenant preparedness, something that couldn't be transferred at the last moment. (Ezekiel 18:20)

† All ten virgins slept and slumbered because the delay tested everyone. The issue wasn't whether they slept. The issue was whether they were ready when the bridegroom arrived. (Matthew 25:5-10)

† Jesus had already warned repeatedly that many in Israel appeared outwardly ready while inwardly unprepared. (Matthew

7:21-23)

† The cry at midnight pictures the sudden arrival of covenant judgment. Those prepared entered into the blessings of the kingdom while the unprepared were shut out. (Matthew 24:37-44)

† The closed door echoes the shutting of Noah's ark before judgment fell upon the old world. (Genesis 7:16; Matthew 24:37-39)

† Lord, Lord parallels Matthew 7:21-23 where many claimed covenant association with Christ but were rejected because they were not truly known by Him. (Matthew 7:21-23)

† The command to watch was not directed to people thousands of years later. It was directed to the first century audience facing the end of their covenant age. (Matthew 24:42-44)

### **Matthew 24:34**

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Jesus placed the fulfillment of these warnings within the lifetime of His own generation. (Matthew 24:34)

† The ten virgins parable cannot be disconnected from the timing statements surrounding it. (Matthew 24:32-34)

† Futurism removes the parable from its original audience and turns it into a warning for people living thousands of years later, even though Jesus specifically said These things would happen before that generation passed away. (Matthew 24:34)

## **Hebrews 8:13**

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is about to disappear.

† At the time Hebrews was written, the old covenant system was still standing but nearing its end. (Hebrews 8:13)

† The parable fits perfectly into this transition period where faithful believers were waiting for the full removal of the old covenant order. (Hebrews 12:26-28)

† The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 publicly confirmed that the old covenant age had ended. (Luke 21:20-22)

## **Luke 21:20-22**

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city; because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.

† Jesus connected the fulfillment of prophecy with the judgment upon Jerusalem. (Luke 21:22)

† The parable of the ten virgins belongs within this same prophetic framework. (Matthew 24:1-34)

† The wise were those who listened to Christ's warnings and remained prepared during the approaching days of vengeance. (Luke 21:36)

## **Revelation 19:7-9**

Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he \*said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he \*said to me, "These are the true words of God."

† This connects the marriage imagery directly to covenant fulfillment and the prepared bride. (Revelation 19:7-9)

† The wise virgins were ready for the arrival of the bridegroom and entrance into the marriage feast. (Matthew 25:10)

† Revelation shows the bride prepared and the marriage fully arrived in the first century fulfillment context. (Revelation 1:1; Revelation 22:6)

## **Romans 9:6**

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;

† Physical covenant association did not guarantee acceptance. (Romans 9:6-8)

† The foolish virgins looked outwardly connected but lacked true readiness. (Matthew 25:1-12)

† Jesus consistently warned that outward covenant membership alone could not save Israel from coming judgment. (Matthew 3:7-10)

### **Luke 13:24-28**

"Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin standing outside and knocking on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' and He then will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.' Then you will begin saying, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets!' And yet He will say, 'I do not know where you are from; LEAVE ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

† Jesus used the same shut door imagery elsewhere concerning Israel's coming judgment. (Luke 13:24-28)

† This wasn't about missing a future rapture event, it was about exclusion from covenant blessing during the transition judgment. (Matthew 8:11-12)

† Many in Israel assumed covenant privilege guaranteed entrance, but Jesus warned otherwise. (Romans 9:30-33)

### **Historical References**

† Eusebius recorded that believers in Christ fled Jerusalem before its destruction, showing that faithful disciples understood and responded to Jesus' warnings. (Luke 21:20-22)

† Josephus described the horror of Jerusalem's fall in AD 70, matching Jesus' warnings concerning tribulation and judgment upon that generation. (Matthew 24:21-22)

† Early Christian writers consistently connected Matthew 24 with the destruction of Jerusalem rather than a distant end of the physical universe. (Matthew 24:34)

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† This parable reminds us that outward association with God's people isn't enough. Covenant faithfulness matters. (Romans 2:28-29)

† Readiness cannot be borrowed from someone else at the last minute. (Matthew 25:8-9)

† Jesus fulfilled His warnings exactly as He said He would within that generation, proving His words are trustworthy. (Matthew 24:34)

† We now live in the fully established new covenant kingdom where Christ reigns and His people walk in covenant life through Him. (Hebrews 12:28; Ephesians 2:19-22)

† The focus of the parable was never about maintaining enough supernatural oil levels before a future physical return. It was about being faithful during the covenant transition that was coming upon first century Israel. (Matthew 24:1-34)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** If all ten virgins slept, why were only five rejected?

**A:** Because sleeping was not the issue. The issue was readiness when the bridegroom arrived. The foolish virgins were outwardly associated with the wedding party but were

unprepared for the coming moment of fulfillment. (Matthew 25:10-12)

**Q:** Does oil represent the Holy Spirit in this parable?

**A:** The text never says that. Oil was commonly associated with blessing, light, and consecration, but the parable's point was covenant readiness that couldn't be transferred at the last minute. (Romans 2:28-29)

**Q:** Why did Jesus say I know you not?

**A:** Because many in Israel claimed covenant standing while rejecting true obedience and faithfulness. Jesus used similar language in Matthew 7:21-23 regarding those who claimed association with Him but were not truly His. (Matthew 7:21-23)

**Q:** Was this parable written mainly for people living today?

**A:** No. Jesus connected these warnings to His own generation and the coming destruction of Jerusalem. (Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:20-22)

**Q:** Why did Jesus say no man knows the day or the hour if it was fulfilled in that generation?

**A:** Because knowing the general generation is different from knowing the exact day and hour. Jesus told them the season, the signs, and the generation, but not the precise moment. (Matthew 24:32-36)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† Matthew 25:1-13; Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 8:13; Luke 21:20-22; Revelation 19:7-9; Romans 9:6; Luke 13:24-28

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3; Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 6

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