Another Look-The Lord is Coming

# Matthew 25 (KJV)

**1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.**

**2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.**

**3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:**

**4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**

**5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.**

**6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.**

**7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.**

**8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.**

**9 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.**

**10 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.**

**11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.**

**12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.**

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

The story has not changed. The time now is to look at the Parable of 10 virgins once again.

# Matthew 25:1 The Kingdom of God-Kingdom of Heaven

## Luke 17:20-21 King James Version (KJV)

**20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:**

**21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Question: "What is the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven?"

Answer: While some believe that the [Kingdom of God](https://www.gotquestions.org/kingdom-of-God.html) and Kingdom of Heaven are referring to different things, it is clear that both phrases are referring to the same thing. The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs 68 times in 10 different New Testament books, while the “kingdom of heaven” occurs only 32 times, and only in the Gospel of Matthew. Based on Matthew’s exclusive use of the phrase and the Jewish nature of his Gospel, some interpreters have concluded that Matthew was writing concerning the millennial kingdom while the other New Testament authors were referring to the universal kingdom. However, a closer study of the use of the phrase reveals that this interpretation is in error.

For example, speaking to the rich young ruler, Christ uses “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” interchangeably. “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven’” ([Matthew 19:23](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2019.23)). In the very next verse, Christ proclaims, “Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (verse 24). Jesus makes no distinction between the two terms but seems to consider them synonymous.

Mark and Luke used “kingdom of God” where Matthew used “kingdom of heaven” frequently in parallel accounts of the same parable Compare [Matthew 11:11-12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2011.11-12) with [Luke 7:28](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%207.28); [Matthew 13:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2013.11)with [Mark 4:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%204.11) and [Luke 8:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%208.10); [Matthew 13:24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2013.24) with [Mark 4:26](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%204.26); [Matthew 13:31](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2013.31) with [Mark 4:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%204.30) and [Luke 13:18](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2013.18); [Matthew 13:33](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2013.33) with [Luke 13:20](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2013.20); [Matthew 18:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2018.3) with [Mark 10:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%2010.14) and [Luke 18:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2018.16); and [Matthew 22:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2022.2) with [Luke 13:29](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2013.29). In each instance, Matthew used the phrase “kingdom of heaven” while Mark and/or Luke used “kingdom of God.” Clearly, the two phrases refer to the same thing.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/kingdom-heaven-God.html>

I must remind you that the customs of marriage was different from that era than today. Some men might say, you can’t pay me enough for the one that they have chosen. In the back of both parties' minds, they have devised a plan of escape, “just in case this doesn’t work out, they can walk away without too much damage.

#  MARRIAGE Background

Ancient Jewish Marriages- In biblical times, people were married in early youth, and marriages were usually contracted within the narrow circle of the clan and the family. It was undesirable to marry a woman from a foreign clan, lest she introduce foreign beliefs and practices.

The story of [Jacob](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob), and his two wives [Leah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leah) and [Rachel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel), who both literally came with their own [maids](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maid) as detailed in the [Book of Genesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_of_Genesis) (29:24, 46:18) as the origin of bridesmaids. These women were [handmaidens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Handmaiden) (servants or slaves) instead of social peers

As far as the relevant wedding customs, [Chuck Missler](http://www.khouse.org/articles/2003/449/) explains the traditional custom fairly well, as follows:

1) **Betrothal**- the marriage covenent is established, a price for the bride is negotiated and paid by the groom to the bride's family. There were also some symbolic rituals involved, but that's not so relevant to the question at hand.

2) **Preparation**- The betrothal period is similar to being engaged. They were not yet to unite sexually, and the bride wore a veil to signify her consecration to her husband to be. The husband returned home after becoming betrothed/engaged to prepare a home for the woman, and the woman made her preparations for married life as well. Often this would be about a year of preparation.

3) **The arrival of the Groom** - Once the groom finished his preparations he would come to collect his bride. This was usually done at night, and the groom would be accompanied by a wedding party, male escorts, and a best man, and they would carry torches to light their procession. The bride knew he would be coming but would not know when exactly (hence, needing to be prepared), so the groom would arrive with a shout to get the attention that they had arrived.

4) **Wedding party** - The bride along with her female attendants would accompany the groom back to his family home for a wedding celebration. After the procession walked back to the groom's family home... The bride and groom entered a wedding tent called a huppah to physically consecrate the marriage, while everyone involved waited and cheered. Then the bride would bring out the evidence of her virginity, and their marriage was essentially finalized. This was followed by a week of feasting and celebration by the entire bridal party.

**Conclusion**- So, in this parable, if one follows ancient Jewish wedding cultural traditions, the 10 young women would be the bridal party, not additional brides. They were all supposed to go feast and celebrate once the groom arrived.

# INVITATION

Why were these women invited? What was their purpose?

1Corinthians 7: 34-There is a difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

In Western Culture- Traditionally, bridesmaids were chosen from unwed young women of [marriageable age](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marriageable_age).

Jewish weddings were generally celebrated at night, starting at the rise of the evening star, in this case, the bridegroom and his friends were delayed a bit and they arrived at midnight.

I am reminded of some other midnight occurrences in the Bible:

[Exodus 12:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12:29&version=KJV)

And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

[Ruth 3:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+3:8&version=KJV)

And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

[Mark 13:35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+13:35&version=KJV)

Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

[Acts 16:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+16:25&version=KJV)

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

The grooms’ arrival just came at midnight –

The proper Jewish reckoning recognized only three such watches, entitled the first or "beginning of the watches," ([Lamentations 2:19](https://biblehub.com/lamentations/2-19.htm)) the middle watch, ([Judges 7:19](https://biblehub.com/judges/7-19.htm)), and the morning watch. ([Exodus 14:24](https://biblehub.com/exodus/14-24.htm); [1 Samuel 11:11](https://biblehub.com/1_samuel/11-11.htm)) These would last respectively from sunset to 10 P.M.; from 10 P.M. to 2 A.M.; and from 2 A.M.

After the establishment of the Roman supremacy, the number of watches was increased to four, which were described either according to their numerical order, as in the case of the "fourth watch," ([Matthew 14:25](https://biblehub.com/matthew/14-25.htm)) or by the terms "even," "midnight," "cock-crowing" and "morning." ([Mark 13:35](https://biblehub.com/mark/13-35.htm)) These terminated respectively at 9 P.M., midnight, 3 A.M., and 6 A.M.

# UNWISE VIRGINS

What is THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SLEEP AND SLUMBER?

## SLEEP

A condition of body and mind such as that which typically recurs for several hours every night, in which the nervous system is relatively inactive, the eyes closed, the postural muscles relaxed, and consciousness practically suspended.

 The result of sleep-It produces a gummy or gritty secretion found in the corners of the eyes after sleep. You know it as -eye buggers or crusties, matter or sleep.

Stages of Sleep

Wakefulness includes Gamma, High Beta, Mid Beta, Beta Sensory Motor Rhythm, Alpha, and Theta brain waves. Our composite brain wave, that is, what you would see if you had an EEG (electro-encephalo-graph, or picture of the electrical activity in your brain), would be made up of many of the brain waves named above, all at the same time.

**Stage One**

When we are preparing to drift off, we go through Alpha and Theta, and have periods of dreaminess, almost like daydreaming, except we are beginning to fall asleep. These are interesting states, in that we experience them throughout the day and some people may have more of these waves than others.

Those who practice meditation, or deep prayerfulness, often kinda “hang out” in Alpha. It’s a restful place. During this stage, it’s not unusual to experience strange and extremely vivid sensations or a feeling of falling followed by sudden muscle contractions. These are known as hypnogogic hallucinations. You may even feel like you are hearing someone call your name or the phone ringing. Recently, I thought I heard the doorbell, but realized that it was a hypnogogic hallucination and went back to sleep.

We then begin to enter Theta, which is still a relatively light period between being awake and asleep. This usually lasts for 5-10 minutes. Research has shown that the average sleeper takes about 7 minutes to fall asleep. You may fall asleep sooner or take longer.

**Stage Two**

The second stage of sleep lasts about 20 minutes. Our brain begins to produce very short periods of rapid, rhythmic brain wave activity known as Sleep Spindles. Body temperature begins dropping and heart rate starts slowing down.

**Stage Three**

Deep, slow brain waves known as Delta Waves begin to emerge during this stage. It is a transitional period between light sleep and a very deep sleep.

**Stage Four**

This is sometimes referred to as Delta Sleep because of the delta waves that occur during this time. Stage Four is a deep sleep that lasts for about 30 minutes. Sleepwalking and bed-wetting typically happen at the end of Stage Four sleep. (This does not include the problems that can happen with sleep medications like Ambien and Lunesta).

**Stage Five: REM**

Most dreaming occurs during Stage Five, known as REM. REM sleep is characterized by eye movement, increased respiration rate, and increased brain activity. REM sleep is also referred to as paradoxical sleep because, while the brain and other body systems become more active, your muscles become more relaxed, or paralyzed. Dreaming occurs because of increased brain activity, but voluntary muscles become paralyzed. Voluntary muscles are those that you need to move by choice, for example, your arms and legs. Involuntary muscles are those that include your heart and gut. They move on their own.

Rapid eye movement, or REM sleep, is when you typically dream. You may have images float by in earlier stages, particularly when you are going through Alpha or Theta, but the actual dream state occurs in REM.

This period of paralyzation is a built-in protective measure to keep you from harming yourself. When you are paralyzed, you can’t leap out of bed and run. Do you ever feel like you can’t escape during a dream? Well, the truth is, you can’t. You can breathe, and your heart is working, but you really can’t move.

**Cycles**

Sleep does not progress through all of these stages in sequence, however. Sleep begins in Stage One and progresses into stages 2, 3, and 4. Then, after Stage Four sleep, Stages Three, then Two are repeated before going into REM sleep. Once REM is over, we usually return to Stage Two sleep. Sleep cycles through these stages approximately 4 or 5 times throughout the night.

We typically enter REM approximately 90 minutes after falling asleep. The first cycle of REM often lasts only a short amount of time, but each cycle becomes longer. This is why we need long periods of sleep each night. If we get short periods of sleep, we can’t really get through the stages we need to heal and stay healthy. REM can last up to an hour as our sleep progresses. In case you are wondering, if you feel like a dream is taking a long period of time, it really is. Contrary to what was once believed, dreams take as long as they actually seem.

Getting sleepy? OK, sleep well, perchance to dream….

## SLUMBER

It means: to sleep lightly : [DOZE](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/doze)

b: [SLEEP](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sleep)

2a: to be in a torpid, slothful, or negligent state

b: to lie dormant or latent

 [noun](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noun)

Definition of slumber (Entry 2 of 2)

1a: [SLEEP](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sleep)

b: a light sleep

# PREPARATION

Notice there are two types of characteristics occurring here. All were called, all carried a light, all arrived at the same time at the gate. All were in attendance when the call came in! They all arrived at the gate with the same purpose in mind, celebration, and hope.

## Prepared Virgin

Lamps took with extra just in case oil. Stay PREPARED

[Psalm 119:105](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+119:105&version=KJV)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Carrying the light to the world;

[Matthew 5:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5:14&version=KJV)

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

[John 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+8:12&version=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.

**Corinthians 3:16 King James Version (KJV)**

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**Ephesians 5:18 King James Version (KJV)**

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

It is here I believe that a shift occurs—Time is shifting and during this time while we are under the stay at home mandates. Time has shifted and we are in another season.

## Unprepared

We want to learn from them tonight-Look at the slide.

Church we were not PREPARED AS we should have been. We were too busy, and we were asleep, semi-conscious and an enemy crept in unawares! Stuck in a dream we could not wake from.

# UNWISE VIRGINS

What is happening with the unprepared?

[Matthew 25:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25:9&version=KJV)

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.

**Proverbs 19:15** -Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

It makes us leave the place where God told us to be and causes us to look somewhere else. Our focus is divided!!!!

**Isaiah 56:10** His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

**Matthew 26:40** And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

They were lulled into a sleep:

**Revelations 3: 14-19**

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

[Matthew 25:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25:9&version=KJV) 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.

They were complacent

**Mark 14:37** And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

Halfhearteness towards God

 [Isaiah 29:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+29:13&version=KJV)-Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

[Matthew 15:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+15:8&version=KJV)- This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Allowed a thief to come in:

**Luke 12:3** And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. (The Thief of Corona)

**Lamentations 4:17** As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save us.

There are prayer lines ongoing 24 hours and some of us have not been on one. We cannot allow this SABBATH REST TO PASS US BY. We cannot allow ourselves to be hooked to the TV and caught unawares. The AFTER THIS is going to be devastating to those who have not prepared here! It is time to pray, read fast, and watch more!!!!

# RESULTS

**Matthew 25:10** 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.

Now the gatekeeper was given a charge: if they are late, they cannot get in.

[Psalm 6:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+6:8&version=KJV)--Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.

[Psalm 101:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+101:4&version=KJV)--A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

[Matthew 7:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7:23&version=KJV)--And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

[Matthew 25:41](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25:41&version=KJV)--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:

# WAKE UP

The call is for real this time—JESUS IS SOON TO RETURN! I say this just in case you went to sleep or slumbered on this line.

[Isaiah 50:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+50:4&version=KJV)--The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

**Luke 12:40** Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

**Matthew 24:44** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

**Mark 13:35** Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

## I leave you with these words:

**Matthew 24:34-36** Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.