PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom."

The Coming of the Bridegroom for the Bride

As in the other parables, the bride remains assumed but not identified. That this is the coming for the bride is indicated by the fact that the coming is followed by the wedding banquet and that the virgins go out to meet the bridegroom carrying lamps, as was the custom when the groom came for the bride. (Notice that in the parable in Luke 12:36 the master returns **FROM** the wedding banquet.)

Matthew 25:1-4 "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 any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

The whole issue of readiness is the possession of oil. The foolish did not take any oil with them. The lamps were made of clay, with a large opening for pouring in oil and a small opening for the wick. There was a hole in the bottom in which a pole could be inserted. They would be lit and held up on the pole during the procession to the wedding banquet. The text specifically says the wise virgins brought oil in containers along with their lamps.

What Does Having Oil Symbolize

I Samuel 16:13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

Luke 4:18a (quoting Isaiah 61:1a) "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me,"

Jesus is the Christ, which means the "Anointed One." The word "Messiah" or Ha Mashiach" in modern Hebrew means the "Anointed One."

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh, but in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

A Lengthy Wait

Matthew 25:5 "The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep."

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."

Luke 19:11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

An Unexpected Coming

Matthew 25:6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "

Matthew 24:44 "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

The Foolish Virgins Are Not Ready

Matthew 25:7-9 "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,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "

A wick may burn briefly without oil, but not for very long. The light of a lamp comes from the burning of the oil, not the burning of the wick.

Revelation 1:20d "the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Preparation Must Be Made in Advance

Matthew 25:10 "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."

2 Thessalonians 2:9&10 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:11&12 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Matthew 25:11-13 "Later, the others also came, 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Revelation 7:9&10 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 7:13&14 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

The Major Points of the Parable

The coming of the Bridegroom (Jesus) for His bride will be unexpected.

Preparation for Jesus' coming must be made in advance, it will not be possible once He comes.

Acceptable preparation means having the Holy Spirit.

There will be those who are waiting for His return and think they are ready, who will find out to late that they are not.

We should therefore stay awake, keep watch, be alert, because we do not know when Jesus will come.