

PROPHETIC REVELATION



The Ten Virgins

Who
truly are
the Wise Virgins?

He that hath an ear, *let him hear!*



The Ten Virgins

顏
連
生

Richard I.s. Gan

Introduction

Who are the ten virgins in the parable of Matthew 25:1-13? Who are the **wise** and who are the **foolish**?

Remember that a parable is a narration of events to depict a profound spiritual truth concerning the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. Many Christians have given the parable different interpretations. But unless God reveals it, one can only guess. And certainly God will never reveal His Truth just to anyone. But I believe, and always will believe, that our Heavenly Father only reveals His hidden Truth to those who belong to Him, those who are His elect and those who have an ear to hear what His Spirit says (cf. Mat.11:25-27; 13:10-17; 16:17; Mk.4:11-12; 1Cor.2:10). That's the truth. Amen.

There are certain important **key words** that show the time and the people involved in this parable. Without prayerful and careful examination of the parable, we will miss the hidden truth with which it contains. However, we cannot even begin to look at this parable until we first understand the parable of the SOWER that our Lord Jesus Christ narrated in Matthew 13. In connection to the parable of the SOWER, our Lord narrated six other parables in succession, one after the other (cf. vv.53). These seven parables are unlike most of the other parables, for Matthew is the only Gospel writer to record down these seven parables, as spoken by Christ, in continuous flow and for good reason. Therefore, we need to be mindful to take an overview of these **seven parables** before we proceed, for denominationalism has distorted their true meanings. The denominations have mainly interpreted each parable as teaching how sinners got saved or would be saved by the Gospel. They are far from the truth. All seven parables show the **changes** that would take place in the Church of Christ

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

throughout the Gospel Age (or the Seven Church Ages as prophetically illustrated in the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation). Because Christ had won the victory over Satan by His death at Calvary, Satan was undeniably upset. These seven parables show how Satan was to go about hindering the journey of the saints of God, bringing the Church to a crawl, and then how the Church was able to struggle out of it and return to her original position.

The seven parables are broken up into four sets. The first three deal with seeds — the germ of life. The fourth deals with leavening — the corruption of food. The fifth and the sixth deal with lost treasures and pearls — things of value that men seek for. And the last deals with a dragnet, the fishermen and the good choice — a great work of separation.

The Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13:1-23

- 1 *The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.*
- 2 *And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.*
- 3 *And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;*
- 4 *And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*
- 5 *Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:*
- 6 *And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*
- 7 *And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*
- 8 *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*
- 9 *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*
- 10 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?*
- 11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

THE TEN VIRGINS

12 *For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*

13 *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

14 *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear; and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

15 *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

16 *But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*

17 *For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

18 *Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.*

19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*

20 *But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;*

21 *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*

22 *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

23 *But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

Concerning the **mysteries** of the "kingdom of heaven" Jesus Christ purposely spoke in parables with good reason. It was to hide the truth of the mysteries from the multitude who heard, for many

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

had ears that were dull of hearing, eyes that were blind and hearts that were hardened. However, to those who were the true disciples of Christ and who had ears to hear, Christ revealed to them the hidden truth. Similarly, He will reveal to His true disciples in this present day.

The disciples initially did not understand the mysteries of this first parable. And Christ said to them, *“Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?”* (Mk. 4:13). Until Christ gives the revelation, it is impossible for anyone to understand the truth of all parables concerning the **Kingdom of Heaven**. That this first parable concerning the Kingdom of Heaven must be first understood is clear for it concerns THE SOWER and HIS SEED. In verse 37 we are made to understand that THE SOWER sows only GOOD SEED, and HE is the SON OF MAN, Jesus the Christ. It is He Who is *“the author and finisher of our faith”* (Heb. 12:2). And Jesus very clearly expounded His own parable in verses 18 to 23, hence no further explanation is required. There were four grounds upon which the seed fell — the “good ground”, the “way side”, the “stony places” and “among thorns”. Those *“that received seed into the good ground”* were His disciples. The other three grounds were found among those who were as the rich young ruler, the religious leaders (the Pharisees, the Sadducees) and those who desired only the “bread and fishes” respectively (Joh. 6:26).



Immediately after the parable of THE SOWER, Jesus put forth the second parable.

The Parable of the Tares among the Wheat - Matthew 13:24-30

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

THE TEN VIRGINS

28 *He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

29 *But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

30 *Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*



Notice that this second parable begins with these words the “*kingdom of heaven*”. This term the “*kingdom of heaven*” represents Christ as King to His disciples and believers in this present earth. It speaks of a “heavenly” dispensation, the dispensation of His Gospel. No other Gospel writers used this term. Only Matthew used it. And rightly so because Matthew’s teachings deal with the Kingship of Christ. The term the “*kingdom of God*” used in the other Gospels represents God’s “eternal” kingdom. The two terms are not always interchangeable. A careful reading of Matthew’s usage of the “*kingdom of God*” in the five instances recorded in Matthew 6:33; 12:28; 19:24; 21:31,43 will provide the answer. The **kingdom of God** is right in the midst of the **kingdom of heaven**. When the **kingdom of heaven** is fulfilled, the **kingdom of God** will remain eternally with God.

Why is the “*kingdom of heaven*” introduced in this second parable? In the first parable our Lord Jesus Christ portrayed Himself as the SOWER sowing the SEED of the Word of God. It depicts how different people who upon receiving the WORD of God would react. But only those that grew out of the good ground could yield fruits, some thirty, some sixty and some a hundred fold. The “*kingdom of heaven*” only began after Christ had accomplished His work of sowing the Gospel and left His field to His servants to care for it.

“*But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*” Evil works are usually done in the dark when men are not fully alert or when they are asleep. As shown in the parable, Satan somehow sneaked into the field and sowed tares among the wheat. He sought to destroy the field, if possible, or at the very least to corrupt and hinder those in it. Tares are imitators of wheat, looking like wheat in their early stage of growth. Both are not easily distinguishable until they come to ear.

Not long after the Church had been established on the Day of Pentecost, the **Mystery of Iniquity** began to work and soon tares were found among the field of wheat around the year 53 AD. More tares were sown as the first generation of the able men of God went to sleep

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

in their graves. By the Second Church Age (Smyrna – Rev.2:8- 11) the tares were many and had become very noticeable. The servants of the Lord in the 2nd Century thought to weed out the tares. However, to prevent harm to the wheat the Master's advice was to let the tares grow together with the wheat. He had no intention of removing the tares until the Harvest at which time He would send out the reapers to first gather the tares for the burning.

And now we are at the harvest time.

“Declare unto us...” – Matthew 13:36-43

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Concerning the Gospel, there are now two kinds of grains in the “field”, the **wheat** and the **tares**. The wheat, the good seeds, are the true believers of God. The tares, the false seeds, are the make-believers — the children of the wicked ones. Both the wheat and the tares are found growing in the Kingdom of Heaven but only the wheat belong to the Kingdom of God.

The year 1948 saw the formation of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Through it the Lord sent His angels to gather “*all things that offend, and them which do iniquity*”, that is to gather the tares and bind them together ready to be cast into the fiery furnace of the Great Tribulation. Now that the tares are bound up, the wheat are being

THE TEN VIRGINS

gathered into the barn (or granary). Remember that the SOWER had sowed only good seeds in His field and would therefore gather only wheat grains into His granary. But before the wheat grains can be gathered and stored in the granary, the wheat are gathered to the threshing floor (sometime referred to as a barn – Job 39:12) to be thoroughly purged of the chaff. Thus fulfills the words of John the Baptist:

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Yes, this is the **separating time**. For “*all things that offend, and them which do iniquity*”, Christ will see to it that they are gathered for the burning. As the seed is not heir with the chaff, so shall the chaff be purged for the burning. The hypocrites, the make-believers and the personality-cult followers are such that must be thoroughly removed from the Kingdom of God.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed – Matthew 13:31-32

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Notice that the man sowed the grain of mustard seed in his garden (not his field where he sowed his wheat, cf. Lk.13:18-19). The mustard seed is not the smallest of all seeds (cf. Mk.4:30-32). The phrasal words are Jewish proverbial for smallness. (The word “*smallest*” is used hyperbolically.) The mustard seed is a very small seed and it cannot be hybrid. The plant, looking somewhat like a tree when fully grown to about 10 feet, is actually an herb. Amongst all the other herbs grown in the garden, the mustard plant would certainly resemble a tree with its branches stretched out in various directions.

Denominational preachers have taught that the parable either represents the sinners, which are the birds of the air, being attracted to the Gospel of the Church or the Gentiles being allowed to enter the

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

Church originally for the Jews. A closer examination tells us that the “birds of the air” has no direct relationship with the **life** of the “mustard seed”.



The germ of life in the mustard seed has its roots in the earth. As it grew it manifested its branches, leaves and fruits. The birds were not part of the mustard plant. They were of the air. Though they might perch or rest in the shadow of the mustard tree, they were not part of it.

The MAN who sowed the mustard seed in His own garden represents the Son of Man. He sowed the mustard seed of the Gospel of salvation, which bore life and grew into a small plant, the small group of believers on the Day of Pentecost. As it continued to grow, it produced more branches and more leaves. By and by it came to look like a small tree as the Church grew.

Remember that the mustard tree is actually an herb. And like all herbs, it has medicinal value. For that reason the birds were attracted to the mustard tree.

By this time the Church had entered into the Pergamean Church Age (Rev.2:12-17), the beginning of the 4th Century AD. Constantine, the then new emperor of Rome, embraced Christianity in 312 AD after his “vision” of the Cross — “*in hoc signo vinces*” (“*in this sign you will be victorious*”). By it he had several victories in his battle campaign for the Roman Empire. He pronounced Christianity the state religion. From 320-330 AD, Constantine began to attack paganism through the government but he often persuaded people to follow the laws by combining pagan worship with Christianity. Those who were “converted” to Christianity were safe from persecution. This attracted the men of higher societies and ranks – the rich, the noble, the aristocrat, and even pagan priests and religious leaders – to find shelter in the Church for their personal benefit. These were the birds that came to perch on the branches for shelter and comfort and for protection from the heat (persecution). These birds did not contribute anything to the mustard tree except their weight and their droppings, which soon weighed down and polluted the Church.

With all these strange birds coming together on the tree, there was a constant noisy chirping of the different calls of the birds. This noise was the arguments and debates over certain Church affairs. Through the argument as to whether the Lord Jesus Christ was God or Man, a teaching stirred up by Arius, a priest of Egyptian Alexandria, a council was convened at Nicea, Rome, in 325 AD under the order of

THE TEN VIRGINS

Constantine. The product of that council was the false theological understanding of God known as the *Holy Trinity*, which is accepted by almost all in Christendom today.

During this age of about 300 years there were about 35 men in the Roman Church who were made popes. (As centuries passed, the later popes claimed to be as the God Almighty, "*The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws.*" (Translated from Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, art. "Papa," (Pope) II, Vol VI, pp. 26-29.) Politics ruled the day and the more powerful birds got to stay a little stronger on the mustard tree. But how was the life of that mustard tree to grow as more and more burdensome creatures perched on its branches making it droop and sag and dirty with their droppings causing it to look more and more like a monstrous beast (cf. Rev.13:1-10)? Where was the life of the mustard tree? It simply went right back down into the earth, figuratively speaking. The true elect went "underground".

The Parable of the Leaven - Matthew 13:33

33 *Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.*

With the **true Church** going underground, the **filthy Church** in Rome began to exert her power to do as she wished. In order to rule the Roman Empire, she had to win over the pagans. To make it much



easier for the people to embrace Romanism, she took some leaven and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. (The filthy Roman Church was the "woman" in the parable.) That three measures that God had weighed out to make a meal — **a whole loaf**, were **Justification**, **Sanctification** and **Holy Ghost Baptism**; all that lie in the Complete Redemptive Work of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Roman Church had to corrupt the very **Bread of Life** that God provided in Christ. That woman, **Mother Harlot** (Rev.17:5), took her creeds, dogmas and rituals and hid them in the three measures of meal making it to rise, making

the bread easier to eat. The whole loaf was puffed up with nothing but "hot air". She then fed it to the people who were fooled into believing that they were receiving the Bread of Life. It simply looked good and easy to eat, and so the people bought it, ate it and believed that eternal life was in it. It was a lie, a BIG lie. They were eating but corrupted bread.

The Roman Catholic Church had leavened the Truth of Life in many ways. For Justification, "*by grace are ye saved through faith*",

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

she substituted it with **“faith in the Roman Catholic Church”**, teaching that there is no salvation outside the Mother Church, as she called herself. For Sanctification, she substituted it with **indulgences, penance and the confession**. For Holy Spirit Baptism, she substituted it with **Mass and Confirmation**. But there is two leaven that to this day can be found in her **“daughter harlot”** churches, and that is, Water Baptism in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, along with the false teaching of the Holy Trinity. The baptism is even done by sprinkling or pouring of water onto the individual’s head.

Throughout the 1000 years of the **Dark Ages** (of Thyatira, Rev.2: 18-29), the leavened bread of the Roman Church was fed to the masses. Not only were the majority of the people feeding on the bread of death in ignorance but their natural life throughout that period was sickly, being plagued by diseases and death due to a restrain on knowledge and advancement in the many fields of science by the Roman Church.

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44

44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.



As we come into the fifth parable we see the Age of Reformation or the Sardisean Church Age (Rev.3:1-6). This period began around the 16th Century. Many of the treasures of God’s precious priceless truths were lost to the people during the last 1000-year reign of the woman Jezebel (Rev.2:18-29). During this period there were many men searching for the treasures in the wrong fields. **Martin Luther** was just such a man. He searched all over Europe in the monasteries for several fruitless years. In hope of obtaining an indulgence promised by the pope, he went to what was called Pilate’s Staircase in Rome and began crawling up the stairs on his knees. While doing this he was halted by the words of the Scriptures, which came to him: **“The just shall live by faith”**. The voice clearly was God’s.

Martin Luther had found a piece of precious treasure. He silently kept that to himself, hiding it from his fellow priests for a good while as he continued searching. Having gotten all the information he needed, he drafted out a claim, figuratively speaking, his 95 theses. Then he went and nailed it to the Wittenberg Castle door of the Roman Catholic Church. He sold back all the religious things he had gotten from the field of that woman, Jezebel, and bought the field of God from where he had found the piece of treasure. The words from the realm of the Roman Church had nothing to offer mankind but lies, whereas those from the realm of the Lord Jesus Christ had many treasures to

THE TEN VIRGINS

offer truth seekers of God. There were men like **John Calvin** who discovered the treasure of **Eternal Security** of the True Believer, and **John Knox**, the treasure of **Predestination**. It is true that many of the treasures were just nuggets but they produced enough excitement among the true worshippers, urging them to take a closer look in the realm of God. *“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness”* (Isa.55:1-2).

Just a short time before the Reformation started and Protestantism came into the picture, Christopher Columbus discovered the New World — America. With that discovery, many in Europe were able to find freedom away from the oppression and bondage of the Roman Catholic Church. Not only was that Roman Church wounded by the Reformation, but by about 300 years later, in 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte dethroned the pope, deepening the wound on the head of the monstrous Beast (cf. Rev.13:3).

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price – Matthew 13:45-46

45 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:*

46 *Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

With the close of the Sardisean Church Age, we enter into the Philadelphia's (Rev.3:7-13). Unlike the man we read in the fifth parable, this man was a merchant by trade. He was in the business looking out for beautiful and valuable pearls. This man was the preacher **John Wesley**, the messenger to the age of Philadelphia, an age of brotherly kindness.



John Wesley was the 15th of 19 children born to his pious parents. They were from the Church of England, the half sister to the Roman Church. In the period when he was born, the standard of morals in England was ebbing. Gambling, drinking and fighting were common every day events. John Wesley was a well-educated Anglican minister. Desiring to be a missionary and to evangelize the American Indians, he went to Georgia, USA, only to be discouraged. He thought he had something valuable to sell but the American Indians did not want it. After two years, he sailed home to England. He wrote, *“I went to America to convert Indians; but oh, who shall convert me?”* Despite his good education and serving God, Wesley had no peace with God in his heart. Wesley had every outward appearance of being a

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

marvelous Christian, yet his heart wasn't converted — and he knew it. He belonged to the “Holy Club” in college. He was a pastor. He was a missionary. Yet he wasn't really saved.

On May 24, 1738, at a Moravian Christian gathering, while listening to the reading of Luther's preface to his *“Commentary on Romans”*, Wesley's heart was “strangely warmed”. He had received a revelation. Then and there he trusted Christ alone for his salvation from sin. With that he began to seek further into the Word and God began to reveal to him the need for a clean lifestyle, a holy living. He began to see a pearl of great price — **Sanctification**. Yes, John Wesley did not only believe in *“the just shall live by faith”* but also that *“without peace and holiness, no man shall see the Lord”*. What he once had out of that cold system of the Church of England was nothing short of *“having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”* (cf. 2Tim.3:5). He sold that which he had and purchased the **“pearl of great price”**.

On horseback, Wesley rode throughout England and preached to many in the mountains and coal mining towns. Many were converted. There was such a great revival in that hour. But most of the bishops of the Church of England were wary and they would not reform. They closed the doors of their churches on Wesley and his teaching. Rejected but undeterred, Wesley declared *“the world is my parish”*.

Wesley's *“pearl of great price”* became known as the doctrine of *Sanctification, Consecration and Dedication* unto God. His followers were taught to approach their religious activities methodically and with a disciplined life. Hence, they were called Methodists. Many of his followers migrated to America with his message and established a strong Methodist Church before Wesley died on 2 March, 1791.

The Parable of the Dragnet - Matthew 13:47-52

47 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:*

48 *Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

49 *So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,*

50 *And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

51 *Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord.*

THE TEN VIRGINS

52 *Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.*

This is the last of the seven parables and it depicts the last of the Seven Church Ages — Laodicea (Rev.3:14-22). Christ was revealing the consummation of the Gospel (Grace) Age. Remember in the second parable (20 years after the start of the Church), the tares that appeared among the wheat were left to grow alongside until the time of the harvest (the end of the Grace Age). They then would be gathered first and bound up, ready for the burning. The seventh parable appears to be similar but only to some degree. What we see here is the final great Gospel revival of preaching the Word of God to the masses of people around the world. In the parable, the fishing net that was cast into the sea was not an ordinary and commonly used cast net. It was a dragnet, a large fishing net. And when it was full, it took as many fishermen as were required to drag and haul it to shore. On the shore the catch was then separated. When such a great net is cast into the sea, it is inevitable to find every sort of creature from the sea in the net. What the Lord was looking for, in casting the great net, were the fishes — “good” stuff.



The great net was cast in the early 20th Century. It was so enormous that every religious sort in the sea of humanity found their way into the net. Upon sorting, “spiritual” fishes that were the **good** (virtuous, beautiful, valuable) were gathered into vessels. The “religious” **bad** (worthless, rotten), such as jellyfishes, crabs, turtles, sharks, octopuses, eels, crayfishes, sea slugs, etc., were thrown away. (Remember that the Jews understood which sea creatures were lawful, and which were not, to be eaten.)

We are now living in the age where we do not only see the separation of the *tares* (false seeds) from the *wheat* (true seeds), but also the gathering of the *good* (true elect who are beautiful, virtuous and valuable in God’s eye for they conform to the Word) and the throwing away of the *bad* (make-believers who are rotten and worthless for they do not conform to the Word) in the Kingdom of Heaven.

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

The revival under John Wesley went on for a good long while in the 19th Century before it began its decline. The movement found itself dividing into many groups, a result of squabbling over certain doctrines. There were also other movements of Christian groups throughout Europe and America. By the end of the century, there were hungry souls crying out for more from God and this caused God to send a wave of revival at the turn of the 20th Century with a great number of souls speaking in tongues. This was the beginning of Christ's final ministry to gather unto Himself an end time group of true worshippers before His return. Church History marked the year 1906 as the beginning of the revival in which we see the various spiritual gifts of God — prophecies, faith, miracles, divine healing and others, being poured out upon the believers.

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:..” (1Cor.14:22a). God was using tongues to draw the attention of the unbelievers and also that of the vast number of nominal Christians. However, by 1913 there was much schism in the movement, which soon led to the teaching that the “initial evidence” of having the Holy Spirit was to “speak in tongues”. It was strictly taught regardless of the fact that it was contrary to the Scriptures which states that “tongues” was a sign to the unbelievers, that it was a gift to the church, and that not all believers spoke in tongues (cf. 1Cor.12).

The evidence of having the Holy Spirit is not in the “speaking of tongues” but the love for the Word of God as He reveals It. Consider the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you”* (Jhn.16:13-15). It is this love for the Word of God, the love for the Truth, that is the evidence of having the Holy Spirit because God is in His Word. The Spirit and the Word are one. Hence, the Holy Spirit is given to lead and guide a believer into God's true revelation of His Word. God is also love and if one has the Spirit, he has the love of God. Without that love then all is vanity (cf. 1 Cor.13).

When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the true worshippers as they sought more from God, they not only spoke in tongues, but they also received the **revelation of the One True God and His Redemptive Name in Water Baptism**. Like the true worshippers on the Day of Pentecost, they had no difficulty in accepting the truth. They all turned away from the false and pagan doctrine of a Holy Trinity of God to the true doctrine of One God, and from Water Baptism in the triune titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit to Water Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew that to put on Christ,

THE TEN VIRGINS

one had to take His Name in the New Birth. But soon carnality, intellectualism and power struggles appeared, groups began to be formed, and slowly many moved away from those revelations to focus on the so-called “initial evidence” of speaking in tongues as proof of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was *not* to confront the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as much as it was to confront those caught in the great net with the complete Word of the Almighty God. Each caught within the net was either *good* or *bad*. Jesus said, *“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him”* (Jhn.14:23). Every believer must take heed to the doctrines found in the Word. *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee”* (1Tim.4:16). For centuries the churches had so misplaced the Truth of God but now every elect must line up with the Word of His Beloved. Everyone’s doctrinal standing would be tested for there would appear a ministry that would take every believer to the Word to determine if they were one with the Word. The last verse in the parable itself revealed such a ministry. *“Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder; which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”* Recall how the two words “*man*” and “*merchant*” were used to describe the “*minister*” in the 5th and 6th parables respectively. Here the word used was “**scribe**” to denote a particular office. A scribe is a gifted man devoted to the study, writing and teaching of the Scriptures. He is very particular about the “*iota*” and “*tittle*” of the Word of God. Notice further in the verse, “*every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven*” denotes that there would be men of God who were **specialy instructed** in the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. They are instructed (taught) by the Spirit of God and not by men. Each of them would be as “*unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old*”, that is, each of them was as an owner of a repository of treasure from which he would show forth *new* (fresh) and *old* (familiar) revelations to his household of God’s family.

Now, the ministry began with a little man by the name of William Marrion Branham of Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA. As the great net was being cast, William M. Branham was the man God used greatly to bring about a wave of emphasis on salvation, Holy Spirit baptism, divine healing, miracles and prophecies just after the First World War. He was given not only the gift of healing the sick but also the gift of “**discerning the secrets of men’s hearts**”. The latter gift is not one of the nine gifts of the Spirit known as the “*gift of discerning of spirits*” (1Cor.12:10) as many had insisted, but it is actually a gift that had manifested in only one other person — Jesus Christ when He came as the Son of Man. To Bible students, the gift is known as the “**sign**”

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

of the Messiah”. The return of this gift fulfilled the words of Jesus Christ in Luke 17:30, cf. 17:22, to reveal once again the ministry of the Son of Man on the earth. [For more understanding, read my message entitled: *The Coming of Christ.*] The Jews, to whom Jesus Christ first came, had seen the SIGN in action. With the Grace Age closing, the Gentiles were given the opportunity to see the same SIGN in operation (in William Branham) before Christ returns to take His Bride away.

Through the ministry of William Branham, the revival caused many in the divided Church World, including the Pentecostals – the Oneness and the Trinitarians, to leave their denominations when they received the revelation of the Word of God. Christians began to see that God had truly sent a prophet. Many other men caught the vision and joined in the casting of the great net. Unfortunately, the eyes of many of those men were focused on the outward move of God rather than on the inward move of the Holy Spirit in bringing believers closer towards the Word of God. They soon compromised the Word for popularity and wealth, using their ministries to get them further in this world.

As the great net was being hauled onto shore, the catch was being separated — the *good* from the *bad*. As the angels of the Lord were sent out (in 1948) to gather the tares (false seeds which formed the false churches) and to bind them together under the World Council of Churches for the burning, so the Lord also sent His angels to separate those caught in the great net. All creatures that came into the great net might have moved and swayed religiously but they certainly were not all the “good”. Through THE WORD each would be tested for his worth. Hence, we see Christ fanning His threshing floor thoroughly (Mat.3:11-12). Just after the mid-1950, the Lord began then to use the same little man, William Branham, to get the believers to pay attention to the teaching of the Word of God. Christ had a message for the believers and His messenger was the little man.

William Branham began to strike out at the organized churches, at their ideas, at their programs, at their creeds and dogmas, etc., crying out to them to “COME BACK TO THE WORD OF GOD!” He was the first “scribe” to take out from his **treasure box** things new, such as the revelation of the *Seven Seals* (which was never revealed in ages past). He also took out things old, such as the individual doctrines that the different Reformers taught in the early years but which they and their followers had trouble accepting those not their own. Branham gathered all of them together and correctly placed them in the Word and told the believers to walk in it. All major apostolic doctrines, that the organized churches had chosen to bury in their archives, were set in order. Branham emphasized ceaselessly on the need to STAY WITH THE WORD to be perfected in preparation for the coming of Christ. He also put great emphasis on the revelation

THE TEN VIRGINS

of the One True God and the Water Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The creatures in the great net were all facing the Word of God as the call for a **total separation from unbelief** was made. The message was to restore the saints to the Apostolic Faith before a Five-fold ministry comes, according to Ephesians 4, to perfect them. **If there were no separation from unbelief, perfecting the Church would be impossible.**

No, the majority of the Christendom would never accept the fact that God had sent a little man with a message of restoration to rouse the Church in the Word (according to Malachi 4:5-6) for a Five-fold ministry, which was to come, that would take the Church to perfection. On the other hand, there are a great number of followers of this messenger, running around the world, teaching merely by quoting the oral words of the little man, verbatim, from some two thousands of his sermons recorded on magnetic tapes. They insist that *“you have to say exactly what he said or else you are not in the message”*, something that Branham had never said. This group of people would never believe in a Five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 that takes and stands upon the Scriptures (the same Bible that the messenger used) and perfects the Church for her translation. In fact, the deceptive and seductive spirits that fell upon the churches in Christendom has also fallen on this group of “believers”. These “believers” are not only building up their churches on a collection of statements of Branham, some are also being led into a cultic worship of God’s messenger instead of the Lord God Who sent him. Satan has stolen the Truth that they heard.

With the passing away of William Branham, the ministry of separation continues under the Five-fold ministry of the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers (Eph.4:11-16), with certain **“scribes”** in the **Apostolic ministry** bringing out more treasures, new and old, as the Lord continues to perfect the “good” (the elect) for His return.

So, it is with this final great revival of the casting of the great net that God set the stage for the parable of the Ten Virgins, recorded in Matthew 25:1-13, which this seventh parable overlapped, just as it was overlapped by the second parable.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13

- 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.*

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

- 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.*

“Then” is the first word of this parable. It is the only parable beginning with such a word. This word evidently shows that certain activities and events must have already taken place before the events in this parable can come to pass. The *“then”* points back to the prophecies given by our Lord Jesus Christ in answer to the three questions raised by His disciples in Matthew 24 — *“Tell us, when shall these things be?”* (that is, the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem) *“and what shall be the sign of thy coming”* (that is, the *parousia* of Christ), *“and of the end of the world?”*

The answers that Jesus gave were not in direct answer to each question. They were answered in a general way, starting from the immediate future then to the future and to the distant future, back and forth. Amongst these activities were the appearances of false christs and false prophets; the destruction of the Temple and the City of Jerusalem; the Great Tribulation; the *parousia* of Christ; wars and rumours of wars; nations and kingdoms rising up against one another; famines, pestilences and earthquakes; Christians being hated, afflicted and killed, even betraying and hating one another; the *epiphaneia* of Christ; and the fulfillment of the parable of the Fig Tree (which is the birth of Israel as a nation causing the Jews to return to her own homeland in 1948). Note that it is the fulfillment of the parable of the Fig Tree which would “then” bring in the parable of the Ten Virgins into its end-time prophetic fulfillment. It provides the perspective as to the time when those prophecies Christ spoke about in His answers would be fulfilled. Christ would return to give Israel

THE TEN VIRGINS

her kingdom. This is the reference point that marks the beginning of the end.

Having established the time, we should now realize the parable of the Ten Virgins had begun its fulfillment right from the beginning of the 20th Century, went through the First and Second World Wars, and up to the present time. The parable is about to come to the end of its fulfillment. And the end of its fulfillment is *not* the Rapture, per se. Many Christians have been taught that the parable is about the Rapture. It is not. Like the other seven parables this one is still dealing with the **condition** and period of **change** in the **Kingdom of Heaven**. But this time Christ used the virgins or bridesmaids in the setting of an oriental wedding to portray the condition of the believers in the end-time Church. (The parable itself also portrays a universal picture of the conditions in the whole Church World till the Bride of Christ is sealed in for the Rapture.)

The Kingdom of Heaven is now *“likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the Bridegroom.”* Why did Christ use *“ten virgins”*? Why did He not use *“ten grains of wheat”* since we already know that wheat represents those who believe the Word?

Correct usage of things or objects in the narration of a parable is important. Specific things or objects are used to depict certain fixed concepts of Biblical truths. An object from one parable cannot simply substitute another object used in a different parable. For example, there are Christians who believe and teach that the *“foolish virgins”* in the parable are the unbelievers. In saying that, they then project that the *“foolish virgins”* are *“tares”*. That’s a very serious error. Such substitution would have Jesus Christ saying, *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten grains, five are wheat and five are tares.”* But He did not. Why? It is obvious because **the foolish virgins are not the unbelievers or the seeds of the wicked one.**

So, Why “Virgins”?

Concerning the “Kingdom of Heaven”, there are three parables depicting the various settings of the last Church Age, which began in the early 20th Century. All three parables overlap each other and somewhat converge together. The first parable is the second parable of Matthew 13 — the tares among the wheat. The tares were being gathered from amongst the wheat and tied up in bundles to be cast and consumed in the fiery wrath of God. **The tares represent the unbelievers and the false believers, who were being rounded up under the World Council of Churches. The wheat represent the believers who are**



PROPHETIC*REVELATION

gathered at the threshing floor of the Word of God. and purged before storage at the granary (cf. Matt.3:12).

All wheat grains are wheat grains. However, there are three different kinds of wheat grains — the pollinated, the unpollinated and the worm-eaten. The worm-eaten wheat grains represent those whose names are removed from the Book of Life (Rev.3:5; 22:19). They are the wheat that went bad after worms (spiritual corruption and carnality) devoured them. The unpollinated wheat grains cannot bear fruit and represent those who are saved through the fire (1Cor.3:15; 5:5). The pollinated wheat grains are the “good” ones that bring forth much fruit. They are a part of the good that are gathered in the second parable.

The second parable is the seventh parable of Matthew 13 — the casting of the great net. As the tares were separated and the wheat gathered and purged, a great net was cast over the sea of humanity. It covered every race, society and religion. It covered even the wheat that were being purged on the threshing floor. The final great Gospel ministry to the world brought in creatures of all kinds in the net. As only the good were the intention of the catch, they had to be separated from the bad in the great net. The good were gathered into vessels while the bad were thrown away. The good refer to those who met the requirements of the Word of God accordingly while the bad are those who did not (cf. Lev.11:9-12). All these sea creatures might wave about in the water, “shout and dance in the spirit”, but only the good would satisfy the Lord and His Word and that is why they were chosen to be gathered into the vessels.

Now, the third parable is the parable of Matthew 25:1-13 — the five wise and five foolish virgins. Note that unlike the other two parables, which had two totally different (opposing) objects, the “*tares*” and the “*wheat*”, and the “*bad*” and the “*good*”, this parable has only one object, the “*virgins*”. This parable of the virgins (or bridesmaids) goes beyond the wheat that were gathered onto the threshing floor and purged, and beyond the good that were gathered into vessels. It tells of a group of believers in the end-time who are looking excitedly for the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It reveals the preparedness of the true worshippers in their relationship with Christ the Word in the time of His Coming (*Parousia*), when He will take His Bride in marriage. These virgins comprise both the wheat that were being gathered and purged, and the good that were caught in the net. If there is any believer who is a virgin that is presently in a denominational system, the believer is a virgin even though he has no oil in his lamp as yet. He will surely come to receive the OIL message and come out of the system when the excitement of the midnight cry stirs him up.

THE TEN VIRGINS

At this juncture I need to point out that the parable speaks neither directly of the Rapture of the saints nor of the Bride of Christ being wed though it mentions a wedding taking place. In fact it speaks of a certain category of Christians, who Jesus termed the “*virgins*” (unmarried maidens or bridesmaids), who “*went forth to meet the bridegroom*”. Only the wise ones went with him into the marriage feast. Many think that the “*virgins*” are “*brides*”, but they are not. They are *not* the Bride, per se. The “*going forth to meet the bridegroom*” is obviously not referring to “*going forth into the Rapture*” since most Christians, regardless of faith, believe that they are the “*wise virgins*” and that they would make it to the Rapture. If that is so, then which Christian individuals in the world belong to the “*foolish virgins*”? Rather, it refers to an event where only the “*virgin*” Christians know the importance of **meeting the Bridegroom and entering into the Marriage Feast**. The Bridegroom, of course, is Christ the Word. However, it is *not* merely the physical Person of Jesus Christ but **the glory of Christ the Word**. Actually the virgins or bridesmaids (of the Bride) are excited about the marriage and they are eagerly looking forward to receiving and ushering the Bridegroom into the place where the marriage will be held. They want to be a part of this marriage (feast). The virgins are looking forward to seeing and understanding Christ the Word in a very personal and intimate way. **Only when a Bible believer has received and understood Christ the Word then can he receive Christ the Person of the Word.**

[Note: In the three parables mentioned, there is a connection between certain particular things. The first parable depicts the association between the Sower and His Wheat. The second parable reveals the relation of the Good (fishes) to the Net. The third parable discloses the necessity of the Virgins for the Bridegroom in the Marriage Feast.]

Remember that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a spiritual one and that the Marriage of the Lamb and His Bride is also spiritual. **The Marriage or Wedding of the Lamb is to take place spiritually on earth as the Word-Groom claims His Bride. It is an invisible union of the Heavenly Bridegroom (or Word-Groom) and the Earthly Bride (or Word-Bride). When the marriage feast and nuptials are complete and the Word-Groom is satisfied that His Bride-Wife has made herself ready (cf. Rev. 19:7) then, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the Lord Jesus will then sweep His Wife home to His Father’s House.** This going home to the Father’s House is what we call the *Rapture*. It is there in Heaven that the Grand Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place. Hence the Bridegroom in the parable does not speak of Christ the physical Person, but rather of Christ the spiritual Word that would come to the spiritual Bride for the holy union.

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

[Note: It is important not to mix the theme of this parable of the Virgins going forth to meet the Bridegroom with that of the study of the Marriage of the Lamb (that is, the Spiritual Wedlock of Christ and His Spiritual Bride). Though both involve a marriage setting they depict different subject matters. The parable deals with a relationship between the Bridegroom and the Virgins (Bridesmaids) whereas the study of the Marriage of the Lamb is on the relationship of Christ and His Bride.]

And in this end-time, we have only **three categories** of people in the CHURCH. The first is the **wise virgins**. The second is the **foolish virgins**. The third is the **tares** (or the bad) who have no real passion and are not concerned about the return of Christ. They are spiritually unmoved about it though they may open their mouth and confess that Jesus Christ is coming soon.

The Church started off on the Day of Pentecost with true believers; they were the wheat portrayed in the first and second parables of Matthew 13. But some twenty years later, the spirit of Nicolaitans had begun to work in the Church and by the time all the Apostles had gone to sleep in the Lord, the tares (false believers) became plentiful in the field of Christ. The tares were left alone to grow with the wheat throughout the Church Ages until the seventh and the last Church Age - Laodicea, which is the period of the harvest and the time of separation. The Word clearly shows that only in this last Church Age do we see a category of believers being portrayed by the Lord Jesus as the virgins.

Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is the Alpha and the Omega. The Church He had started began with a FAITH. It will end with the same FAITH. The Early Church had only pure wheat, born on the Day of Pentecost by the Spirit of Christ. It was the day when the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the OIL of the Lord in both Word and Spirit, was upon the believers. The field of wheat, the apostles and the believers, were not contaminated then. The enemy had yet to sow tares. The wheat were as virgins in the FAITH. No false teaching had rubbed upon them yet. Unlike the many churches today with their so-called revelations of GOD and the FAITH, the Church born on the Day of Pentecost had the revelation of *Yahweh* and His Redemptive Name, *Yahshua*, which was given to the Messiah. That was the very first doctrine laid down in the Gospel preached by Peter on that Day of Pentecost. That was the revelation given by the Holy Spirit to all who received the baptism of the Spirit. And that is the base criterion, or yardstick, by which all who later received the baptism of the Holy Spirit would be measured against.

Similar to the pure wheat in the Early Church before the tares arrived, the virgins in this last Church Age will have the same revelation as they did. But as the parable shows, some were wise and some were foolish. Because of their attitude, the foolish ones will find

THE TEN VIRGINS

themselves in a situation that they least expected that will cause them to miss the marriage (feast). Still, because they are all virgins, they will be saved as unlike the tares, which will be cast away into fire to be consumed for their falsehood.

So Then, Who Are These Virgins?

Virgins are those who are “unmarried, pure, and know no man”. These are Christians who are separated from the Church systems formed by the traditions of men. They are “virgins” to the Word. They form the category of believers in these last days who received a revelation that set them apart from other believers in the Church World. A study of Church History shows that the Laodicean Age started near the beginning of the 20th Century after the decline of Methodism. As traditions and cold formal religions had no place in the hearts of Truth seekers, many left the different denominational backgrounds to seek for more of God. And so it began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon certain gatherings of these Truth seekers and true worshippers of different races in America, especially around the years 1903 to 1906. The flame of revival was kindled and it would soon engulf the whole of America, Europe and the rest of the world. To many Christians this revival is called the *Pentecostal Revival* or the *Pentecostal Outpouring of the Holy Spirit* resulting in what is known as the *Pentecostal Movement*.

Now, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon these believers in the first decade of the 20th Century, the believers spoke in tongues and even prophesied like those in the Early Church on the Day of Pentecost. They experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in a unique way that few Christian people ever experience since the tares overran the Church in the Third Church Age. However, to denominational Christians (especially of today) outside of the *Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement*, the *glossolalia* (tongues) phenomenon is not real or Scriptural. Their judgement is based on what is happening today in the *Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement*. It is true that among the hundreds and thousands who speak in tongues, only a handful are genuine. There is much impersonation, not only in the gift of tongues, but also in the other eight gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As we know, the Oracles of God were first given to His chosen people, Israel (Rom.3:1-2). Although the children of Israel believed in ONE GOD, they could not comprehend the Messiah. On the other hand, the Gentiles having received the Messiah (Christ), now believe in a so-called Holy Trinity – a United Godhead of THREE GODS (whom they prefer to refer to as THREE PERSONS). However, look closely at chapter 2 of the Book of Acts (of the Holy Spirit). Peter preached a simple and yet powerful message to his audience. He revealed the Scriptures concerning the prophecies of Joel, amongst others, which

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

were fulfilled in Christ Jesus. He concluded by saying, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (Acts 2:36). The audience of Jews was pricked in their hearts when they realized that the Man Jesus, whom they had crucified, was actually the Son of the Living God, their very Messiah. In response to their sincere cry to do what was right, let us notice what Peter said in contrast to the commandment which was given unto him and the rest of the apostles in Matthew 28:19. **“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 2:38). 3000 souls received that revelation and took the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in water baptism. This very truth that the Lord Jesus Christ was God manifested in flesh, was blazed all over the then known world by the apostles — *“God in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself”* (2Cor.5:19). There was nothing about a second Person of the Trinity, or a third of God who became man to save sinners. On the contrary, Paul said that Jesus Christ was the fullness of the Godhead bodily (cf. Col.1:19; 2:9).

Truly these believers in the early 20th Century had received the genuine gift. It was not just the gift of speaking in tongues or any of the other 9 spiritual gifts for they experienced something far greater. It awakened them to a revelation most Christians before them had completely ignored. They had received what the Apostles and the believers had received on the Day of Pentecost, measured by the yardstick given during the first Pentecostal outpouring on the Early Church. When these Trinitarian Christians received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, **they had a revelation.** They were convinced of the errors in the doctrines of the Trinity and Water Baptism in the triune title of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They then began embracing the doctrine of **One God and Water Baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.** Conforming to the Truth, they were re-baptized in the Redemptive Name of God — the Lord Jesus Christ, as taught in Acts 2:38. Hence, we see the Scripture is true: *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...”* (Jhn.16:13a, cf. Psa.25:5). **The Spirit of God is not given to cause believers to speak in tongues or to demonstrate one of His spiritual gifts.** He is given as the gift of Christ upon every born again believer to lead and guide them into all truth. And **the first thing He does is to reveal Himself and His Name.**

When the *“leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened”* came to be fed to the Church, the OIL was so tamped that the Christians who received it, received not the fullness of what the Early Church had. Most had but a gist of it. Few understood the full value of it. With the Reformers on the scene, God slowly began to restore and show the Church World the

THE TEN VIRGINS

Truth about Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It was through Martin Luther that a measure of the meal — JUSTIFICATION, was restored. Then John Wesley restored the second measure with SANCTIFICATION. Because the tares were allowed to mix with the wheat until the Harvest, it did not matter to the Lord which denomination a Christian belonged to during those era. Yes, those who were true believers were born again of the Spirit of God, otherwise they would not have eternal life — *“that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* (Jhn.3:6). But when the last of the measure of meal, HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM, came into sight from the beginning of the 20th Century, God began firming up the whole loaf as the tares were severed from the wheat, and the good were gathered into vessels while the bad were cast away. As is Alpha, so is Omega. **The Lord must restore and perfect the Church for His Word demands it.** And anyone who considers himself a Bible believer ought to seriously scrutinize what he believes for there are many enticing spirits going about telling people, *“Doctrines do not matter much as long as you believe that Jesus Christ is your Saviour.”* Do not be fooled. Jesus said: *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Mat.24:35). As such, we should not add or take away from the Word of God (Rev.22:18; Prov.30:6; Deut.4:2).

[Note: If you are still not convinced of the Truth of taking Water Baptism in the Redemptive Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, try this. Pay for a purchase with a bank cheque. Sign your cheque, “Father, Son and Husband” (if you are a man living with your son, father and wife) and see if the cheque is cashable. Even if you are an Owner, President and Treasurer of a company, signing a cheque in those titles could never make the cheque valid. Certainly, you would not be that foolish but to sign your NAME. Yet, almost all churches have been fooled by the Devil to take a worthless triune title of Father, Son and Holy Ghost in water baptism. Some theologians have even argued away Acts 2:38 by teaching that Peter (and the other apostles) *commanded* the converts “in the Name of Jesus Christ” to be water baptized in accordance to the triune titles given in Matthew 28:19.]

The disciples of Christ could not have done much if they did not tarry for the promise of the Father for they had little knowledge in the way of the fullness of the Word although they were witnesses of Christ and His ministry (Lk.24:46-49). The disciples had been justified by faith in Christ’s Word, and had been cleansed and sanctified (Jhn.13:11; Eph.5:26; Heb.10:10), and had received the Spirit that Jesus breathed upon them (Jhn.20:22). Like those prophets and saints who were before them, they had salvation. But they had not the experience of the fullness of the Holy Spirit flowing in them (Jhn.7:38-39). Hence, they were told to tarry in Jerusalem until they were invested with power from heaven: *“But ye shall receive power; after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses*

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

*unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). It was this outpouring of the Holy Spirit that endued them with the power (Grk: *dunamis*) to be witnesses. But the Pentecostal and Charismatic circles believe otherwise. To them the power is what believers want to do or can do in the operation of the “spiritual gifts”, such as speaking in tongues, prophesying, healing the sick, casting out of demons, etc.. However, the plain truth remains: it is the power of the Holy Spirit upon believers that leads them as witnesses of Christ Jesus in the Truth (as to Who Christ was and is – Mat.16:15-18; Jhn.14:5-7), as He guides them into all His truth. It is the power to see the Word of Truth and to stand for the Truth, beginning with the Truth that there is but One God who manifested Himself in the Man named Yahshua, who is both Lord and Christ, and it is by His Redemptive Name believers are water baptized in reconciliation to His Creator. Simply, **the Spirit reveals Himself and His Name.** And that is just what Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus: *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him” (Eph.1:17).* Truly, many Christians should take heed to the words that Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. *“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in **spirit** and in **truth**” (Jhn.4:22-24).**

Therefore, **does Truth matter? If it does, then the Truth of utmost importance is the revelation of the Almighty God Himself in Christ Jesus, whose Name was chosen and given to redeem all who believe.** Almost all denominations pay no regard to the Truth of the doctrine of One God and His Redemptive Name in the Lord Jesus Christ. If it mattered to all the apostles and believers of the Early Church, then it should matter to all True worshippers of the Living God in this present age. If you have the true baptism of the Holy Spirit, then you should have the oil to power and light up this Truth in your life. The rest of God’s Truths will then follow. **Without the true revelation, you have nothing but a denominational spirit to lead you about a religious system.**

The Oil, Not “Tongues”

With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Truth seekers in the early 20th Century, we can see that it was the same OIL that was poured upon the Early Church. The Spirit began to get them out of their traditions and organized systems to lead them into the first and most important Truth concerning the Godhead and His

THE TEN VIRGINS

Redemptive Name just like He did with those first apostles of Christ. These believers did not go shooting off their mouth on how “one must speak in tongues or else one did not have the Holy Spirit”. They did not proclaim, “*Come and get tongues!*” No, instead they proclaimed the message, “*Come and get oil! Come and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit!*” This message was never preached in the various denominations. Luther, Zwingli, Knox, Calvin and other Reformers had never preached it. Likewise, Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon and others who followed after the Reformation had never preached it. What the various denominational Christians had then was just a trickle of the oil that the Lord had issued forth on the Day of Pentecost to His disciples.

Now, when one receives the Holy Spirit baptism, he immediately goes into the water to be baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. True, there were some who found it hard to shake off some of their old traditional doctrines that were contrary to the Word. This was especially difficult for ministers who were held by staunch upbringing in their denominations. It was this lot of Christian leaders who, in their swaying to and fro over the Truth they had received, became a tool of Satan to cause schism among the believers. Also, instead of shaking off their ties with the religious system of *Mystery Babylon* and moving toward the spiritual Holy City of Jerusalem to build their homes, they stayed and built them just outside the area of that great harlotry city. When the religious spirit of Babylon wanted to enlarge its boundaries, it simply encircled all suburbia of houses within its reach. This suburbia then became a part of Babylon. In less than a decade, man-made organizations were formed and the erroneous teaching that “*speaking in tongues is the evidence of having the Holy Spirit Baptism*” propagated. And by the middle of the 20th Century another phenomenon of the “Holy Spirit Baptism” came along and was called the “*New Pentecost*” or “*Charismatic Movement*”. This movement penetrated many denominations, including Roman Catholicism, and further pushed the erroneous teaching concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In turn this erroneous teaching went off further into extremism to so-called manifestations such as “*slain by the Spirit*” and “*holy laughter*”. Today, Pentecostalism and Charismaticism have taken new forms that are both radical and extreme.

At the beginning of the Pentecostal outpouring the manifestations were genuine but when it got to the place where intellectual men put more and more emphasis on the “*Baptism of the Holy Spirit*” (a term so commonly misused and misapplied), their ideas of it soon took priority over the Scriptures. One of those ideas was made a doctrine stating that “speaking in tongues” was the evidence of the having the Holy Spirit Baptism, something that the early Apostles never taught. In fact, Paul’s teaching contradicted that, when he asked “Do

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

all speak with tongues?" (1Cor.12:30). Today, there is poison in the pot. It is a cauldron of religious emotions. We see Christians learning the "art" of speaking in tongues; they are taught "how to receive the Holy Spirit" by being prompted to utter some gibberish "words" and by imitating others. We see the impersonation of the spiritual gifts, such as learning the "art" of casting out demons and healing the sick, as if God's gifts could be obtained by learning or imitating. We see preachers looking and acting like movie stars, entertaining the congregation to the tune of "*look good, feel good; look rich, feel rich*" or that "*God wants you to be prosperous*". There are many other emotionally charged make-beliefs. Let me say this: **Charismaticism is a tool in the hand of the Devil to unite all the churches together to bring them back to Rome (Vatican City).** That's the truth.

The Evening Time

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

In God's reckoning, a new day begins when the sun sets. Notice that the OIL came about at the setting of the sun showing that the last of the Seven Church Ages, the Laodicean Age, began at about 1906. The outpouring of the OIL in this last Church Age marked the beginning of the end of **God's final work to bring the Bride of Christ into perfection in the Word.** Calling the people to "**come and get oil**" – the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – was not the final message. The revelation of One God was also not the final message. Both of these two teachings had even deviated from the Scriptural positions not long after they were given. The former went into a false teaching that one has the Holy Spirit only when one speaks in tongues. The latter went into a oneness doctrine of "Jesus Only", a doctrine that made Jesus Himself the Heavenly Father which is contrary to these simple Scriptures: "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*" (Eph.1:3); "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:*" (Eph.1:17). However, the final message came at midnight, about 50 years later in 1956. The cry of the messenger ushered in the final message to the ChurchWorld.

Let me say this. There is no educated intellectual denominational theologian who could ever see the Scriptures regarding God sending a Gentile messenger to His Church. If only they could understand what Prophet Malachi was prophesying of with regards to Elijah the prophet who "*shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers*" (cf. Mal.4:5-6). That John the Baptist fulfilled only the first part of the prophecy was undeniable for an angel of the Lord told his father, Zacharias, thus: "*And he shall*

THE TEN VIRGINS

go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” (Lk.1:17). In the same manner, someone has to come to fulfill the second part of Malachi’s prophecy.

It is hard for many Christians to understand that Malachi’s prophecy had something to do with the Gentile believers. Notice that the prophecy targeted the **heart**. The law and the prophets were until John the Baptist. John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah with a message to usher in the Grace of God by which God Himself would write His Word, no longer on tablets of stone, but on the hearts of men. The message of John the Baptist was to prepare a people for the coming Saviour. His preaching was also to *turn the hearts of the religious fathers* (who held to their teachings of Judaism) *to the children*. These children were those who were converted by the Words that John the Baptist preached. Even those who were disobedient and rebellious came to recognize the wisdom of the righteous ones under the preaching of John the Baptist. These children had opened their hearts to receive the Word, the gospel of the coming Messiah. Some of these children became the Disciples of Christ. Later they became the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ when the Church started on the Day of Pentecost. They became the Apostolic Fathers of the Faith for the Word of God was written in their hearts. When the Gentile believers were later grafted into the Church, they too became a part of the Body of Christ. However, with the passing away of all the Apostolic Fathers the Church did not maintain its course in the Truth but instead fell deep into man-made traditions, creeds and dogmas for some 1500 years before God brought about a reformation. But in this last leg of the Church Age, God had sent a messenger in the spirit of Elijah (just as John the Baptist was). The messenger was sent with a message that would wake the believers to the Word of God and to *turn their hearts back to the Faith of their Apostolic Fathers*, before God strikes the earth with a curse.

The Wise And The Foolish

- 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.*

Why “five wise” and “five foolish”? Why not some other numbers? Biblical numbers are God’s way of showing some simple yet profound truth. The number “5” is the number of GRACE. This shows that who the *wise* and the *foolish virgins* represent were in God’s Grace and they have their places in the Kingdom of God. Unlike the *tares* among the *wheat* in the field and the *bad* among the *good* in the

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

dragnet, both of which were to be cast into fire, the *foolish virgins* were not. They only missed something great that the *wise virgins* had the pleasure of receiving and enjoying. What made the *wise virgins* wise and the *foolish virgins* foolish was their very own personal attitude towards the care of the lamps. The virgins did not become wise or foolish during their journey. They were either wise or foolish from the start.

A wise virgin is someone who is sensible, intelligent and prudent. She steadfastly takes inventory of herself in her relationship with the Lord and His Word as God illuminates Himself towards her. She takes the necessary care and the required preparation to facilitate her meeting with Him. A foolish virgin is not so. She is thoughtless and without consideration. Think of her as one who wants to go in the night to a certain town through a large sparsely inhabited rural countryside in a car with just enough fuel to get her there. She has no thought that she might just take a wrong road and use up much of her available fuel and find herself lost somewhere out in the back country.

With the outpouring of the Spirit in this last Church Age, these Holy Spirit filled Christians became aware of the soon coming of Christ to claim His Bride. (The need to take the Name of the Bridegroom in Water Baptism is scriptural and correct.) Gospel songs of Christ's Second Coming were the main theme of most writers and believers. Many were written and sung; more so as the years passed. It was not so prior to the 20th Century. Such songs were scarce. What the churches had then were mainly hymns. So this ought to tell the 20th Century Christians something. The Spirit of God was rousing His Church to the hour of Christ's Return. The spiritual ones saw it and began proclaiming, "He's coming soon. Jesus Christ is coming again". Yes, the virgins were all looking forward to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.

The Lamp, The Oil, The Wick, The Light and The Oil Vessel

It is important to note that all the virgins carried a lamp. They each had light. If each lamp had light, then each lamp had oil. Some Bible believers jump to the conclusion that the lamps of the foolish virgins did not have oil because of the statement in verse 3, which states: "*They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them.*" However, if they were to read on to the next verse they would know that unlike the wise, the foolish virgins did not take any extra oil in an oil vessel (small and portable) for their lamps during the journey to meet the bridegroom. Further proof that the foolish had oil in their lamps is seen in verse 8 when they found out the light of their lamps was going out because the oil in them was almost used up. Furthermore, no one in his right mind would carry an empty oil lamp and venture out in the evening time after sunset. Without light

THE TEN VIRGINS

to illuminate the pathway, surely one could easily get lost as the darkness deepens into the night. (Note: If the foolish virgins had no oil, then they did not have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Also, if they did not have the oil, then they could not be called virgins.)

Now, the lamp is a receptacle which holds oil that is lifted up through a wick (of twisted flax) by capillary action to an opening or spout at the top in order to feed a flame. The common oil used in the early days was **olive oil**. Every oil lamp that was made to serve its purpose of holding light would receive an initial pouring of oil and, thereafter, constant in-filling. The **lamp** represents the virgin, the believer. As a believer, she carries **oil** which represents the Spirit and



the Word of God, for the Spirit and the Word are One (cf. 2Sam.23:2; Eph.6:17). To be more precise, the oil speaks of the Spirit in His Own Word. Jesus said, *"...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"* (Jhn.6:63). *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psa.119:105). Therefore a person is under a delusion if he claims to

have the Holy Spirit and yet believes contrary to the simple facts of the Scripture of the Lord.

The **flame** of the lamp represents the light of Truth. As a lamp, the Spirit-filled believer lights up her life in testimony to the Truth. She exhibits the Truth. As long as the lamp is filled with oil and the wick is clear of soot, the light will be bright, clear and steady. It will not flicker. The **wick** speaks of the understanding of the believer in the Word. It speaks of her revelation of the Word of God. If the flame flickers or bobs, it is not feeding properly on the oil at the tip of the wick. It is partly feeding on something else, something that is deposited there and which at the same time is become a hindrance to the flow of the oil for the flame. The **soot** or carbon that is formed on the tip of the wick speaks of the darkening of her revelation by some man-made doctrines and teachings that have attached themselves to her understanding. Hence, the virgin needs to **trim** her lamp regularly by lifting up the wick and snuffing off the blackened part and, if necessary, fill up the lamp with the oil from the oil vessel. [Note: In Biblical days, as there was no pilot flame to provide fire, virtuous housewives had to trim their lamps every few hours during the night so that they could have fire in the morning (cf. Prov.31:18). The lamps were trimmed at least twice during the 12 hours of darkness.] The **oil vessel** speaks of a ready source of the Spirit and the Word in the life of the believer to keep the lamp burning at all times. The unction in a believer who continually walks with the Spiritual, Inspired, Absolute and Authoritative Word of Scripture

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

provides the source through which the Spirit of the Lord flows through (2Tim.3:14-17; 1Jhn.2:20-21, cf. Rev.22:17). The Life of the Spirit flows from His Word for It is stored in His Own Word.

Slumber And Sleep

Ancient oriental weddings (which is still practiced today among some oriental people) were very elaborate. It had several ceremonial events. An important feature was the public pronouncement of the marital relationship. (The spiritual relationship between Christ and His Bride is reflected in the entire wedding process.) The wedding usually took place after sunset. It was in the wedding that the couple was presented to the world as man and wife. Having made the necessary arrangements, the bridegroom would leave his home for the bride's home, which was almost always in a very distant village, to wed her. The forerunner of the bridegroom, accompanied by musicians and singers, would go before the bridegroom to herald his arrival (Gen.31:27; Psm.45:15; cf. Jer.7:34). Because of the great distance between the two homes of the couple and the afternoon heat, the procession would usually reach the bride's home late in the evening, which was why light was needed. [Note: There is the assumption that both parties would set off from their respective homes to meet each other mid way. This was hardly practiced, if at all.] The marriage and the feasting would then take place in one designated place in the village that the bride's family picked. Except for family members, relatives and invited guests, the bridegroom has no prior knowledge of the actual location.

As the sun began to set, the virgins (bride's maids of the Bride) went forth to meet the Bridegroom (so as to guide him to the place of the marriage). Each of the wise virgins took along an oil vessel containing the extra oil that would see them through (the necessary required duty that must be performed) to meet the Bridegroom and to enter into the marriage feast. This was wisdom for the Bridegroom's coming might be delayed as He had to come from His "far away" home. They knew that it would take more than just some Holy Ghost sensations to keep their lamps burning. The foolish virgins were not so thoughtful and well-prepared. They assumed that a lamp with certain amount of oil - having some Holy Ghost sensations, signs and wonders - would be just enough for them as they expected the Bridegroom to arrive according to their own calculated timing. The foolish virgins took no extra oil, they took only what amount they had in their lamps.

From the beginning of the 20th Century, these virgins had yearned for the Coming of the Bridegroom, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But our Lord tarried His return.

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

THE TEN VIRGINS

About ten years into the journey, the virgins got weary and tired. They soon found shelter somewhere along the path through the village and began to settle down. It was not long before they slumbered and slept, slipping right back into a denominational spirit. In this state of repose they drifted along with the flow of the system of organized religions as it encompassed them. Yes, all the virgins were carried away by a denominational spirit and housed in a system. Soon the Pentecostal Movement began to split into factions. It began with the Assemblies of God (which stood for the Trinity doctrine), then the General Assemblies of the Apostolic Assemblies (which stood for the Oneness doctrine). As the years passed, other denominations appeared on the scene. Some organizations include the Church of God in Christ; Pentecostal Church of God; Pentecostal Church, Incorporated; Apostolic Churches of Jesus Christ; Pentecostal Assemblies of the Word; and United Pentecostal Church (which is the biggest Oneness Pentecostal denomination today). There were the usual squabbling over doctrines, especially in the areas of the teachings on the Godhead and Water Baptism. Some organizations disappeared while others merged with one another. All these organizations appeared in less than 50 years after the outpouring of the Spirit.

To keep their faith, these organizations had to build Bible Schools and Theological Seminaries to train their men. **It was no longer God Who called and trained His men.** Such educational systems only sought to make men slaves to the organizations they were brought up in and to the doctrines they were taught. Hence, these preachers were all subjected to upholding the constitution of the organizations that paid them. They had to propagate whatever doctrines they were taught whether they liked it or not, otherwise they had to leave. Nicolaitanism, a deed that started at the end of the first Church Age (Rev.2:6) and became a doctrine in the third (Rev.2:15), now exists in all organized religions and in almost all churches.

During this period, in the Protestant system, many souls with hungry hearts for Truth came out of man-made systems to receive the OIL message. They were the wheat on the threshing floor (the Word of God) that were thoroughly fanned and they came out as virgins to fulfill the parable.

As all the virgins slumbered and slept (for about 50 years nothing could wake them), God prepared a man to take a message that would wake them all up. At the same time this man was also to clear up the errors that surrounded the revelation of the OIL and the many false teachings that existed in the Church. As John the Baptist was sent to *“turn the heart of the fathers to the children”*, this messenger and forerunner would turn *“the heart of the children to their fathers”* (cf. Mal.4:5).

The Midnight Cry

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

“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him” should be translated correctly as *“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; **come ye out to meet him**”*. The midnight cry was made *not* by one within the system. Rather it was the voice of one crying from without. Like John the Baptist, this man was a **forerunner** of the (second) Coming of the Lord’s Christ. He came with a message, forerunning the Coming of the Bridegroom. Though he had walked and ministered amongst them since the 1930s, he was not a part of them. He had not been sleeping. He had ministered mainly among the Pentecostal people who accepted him because of the OIL message and, who fastened themselves to him because of his unique gift in the field of divine healing. On the evangelistic field, he was a man well known in the Christian world as the one who was greatly used by God in the casting of the drag net. The man was William Marrion Branham, a man of God, specially anointed with the purpose of spearheading the Deliverance Movement back in the late 1940s. In those years (1947-1956) the world witnessed a marvelous move of God in salvation, Holy Spirit baptism, healing, miracles, signs and wonders. It was never seen before. Other than the Lord Jesus Christ, William Branham was the only one with the gift that could **discern the secrets of the hearts of men** (Jhn. 1:47-50; 4:16-19). It was a gift that is not to be confused with the gift of “discerning of spirits” (sometime referred to as the gift of discernment), one of the 9 spiritual gifts distributed to selected individuals of the Church as the Spirit wills. The gift drew many to the great net. But with that gift came a message — a message to restore the elect to the Original Word. Like John the Baptist who was not a part of religious system of his days, William Branham was also not a part of the system. But, like John the Baptist, he was a messenger of God sent to a chosen people.

This messenger was sent to forerun the Bridegroom, the Christ of God. As was in a natural wedding procession of the bridegroom to the bride’s home, the best man (of the Bridegroom) would proceed before the Bridegroom to herald His arrival. As soon as he was able to see the light of the village, he would raise his voice and shout. This cry would not only awaken the Bridesmaids, it would also awaken everyone who heard the commotion.

For about 50 years the virgins of God had slumbered and slept in the system. 1956 was the year that the messenger, William Branham, came out crying, **“Come out! Come back to the Word! Back to the Original! Back to the Apostolic Fathers’ Faith!”** It was a message for all who had an ear to hear to break free out of the system, and

THE TEN VIRGINS

to meet and receive the Word(-groom). His message was to call the Elect out of "*Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abomination of the Earth*" (Roman Catholicism) and all her *harlot daughters* (organized denominational churches) before the Lord destroys them all. Brother Branham's ministry revealed the Word of God to call the Elect back to the Original Word, the Word that was Christ. The Elect was called to meet this "Revealed Word" and to come into its fullness and be free from the prison bars of denominationalism.

Fifty is the number of the jubilee. Jubilee represents liberty and freedom (Lev.25:11-13). It was 50 years after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in 1906, which began the Laodicean Church Age, that the MIDNIGHT CRY was made. Similarly, would this message of the messenger take 50 years to wind up before the dawn breaks and the Lord comes in the clouds to take away His Bride? Think about it.

Crying out his message, the messenger traveled quickly down the path towards the village, down through the corridor of denominationalism. Whilst awakening the virgins, he also glorified the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Scriptures, showing the true revelation of the One God and why a believer ought to be water baptized in the Redemptive Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He exhorted the believers of their need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to live a sanctified life. He showed how both the *Oneness Christians* and the *Trinitarians* had both erred in their doctrines of the Godhead. He took the doctrines of Luther's *Justification* and Wesley's *Sanctification* and linked them with Knox's *Predestination* and Calvin's *Eternal Security* into the proper framework of the Scriptures, and told the believers that they were to stay in those truths. Bro. Branham was calling them back to the Original Word. Later, he brought forth the truth of the *Original Sin* that caused the Fall of mankind and of the *Serpent and his seed*. And he rebuked the Pentecostal churches for falsifying the teaching of the Holy Spirit baptism and for condoning woman preachers. Then in 1963, through an anointing of the Lord, he was able to take out of God's treasure something new for the Church — *the revelation of the Seven Seals*.

He continued to sound his message through the night, all about the village, the Church World. Here and there some villagers would be roused from their sleep. A number would get up for a second, just to go right back to their slumbering. Others would get up to investigate what was going on and to join in the ceremony. These others were not as yet virgins for they had not received the oil message because they slumbered in the denominational darkness. Several religious, ecclesiastical and pompous leaders of the church world, would later hurl "words" at him because his cry disturbed their religious comfort and peace (what is known today as "religious comfort

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

zone"). Many of those who had once stood with William Branham in the evangelistic field turned away from him. The strong conviction they once had of the Truth they received was no more. They compromised what they had in order to please the people and to draw them to their ministries. However, the cry of the messenger was specially and specifically targeted at the virgins throughout the whole Church World.

The Discovery

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.

Having heard the cry the virgins began to stir from their slumbering. Certainly, not all jumped out of their sleep at the same time. But as the virgins awoke, they discovered that the light of their lamps were but a bobbing, flickering flame. They had slept deeply and long. Now their lights were dim. They knew that the Bridegroom had come and that they had to go and meet Him, so they began to trim their lamps. Why? They needed light to show them the way (Psm.119:105). A dim light can hardly show the pathway clearly at night. Also, danger lurks in the darkness (cf. 1Pet.5:8).

In trimming the lamp, there are three things that need to be done. One, the soot on the wick needs to be removed. Two, the wick needs to be adjusted. Three, the lamp needs to be refilled, if the oil has run out. Yes, for the virgins, sleeping in the religious systems for such a length of time had certainly darkened their understanding of the Word for they were indoctrinated with many traditional man-made teachings. Their characters and behaviors were affected too because of the various spirits that abound in the religious and worldly systems. If they had not slumbered they would have been watchful and made sure that the soot (deceptive doctrines and spirits) did not blacken their wick (their understanding or revelation of the Word) which was fueled by the oil (the Holy Spirit). In other words, false doctrines and false spirits had stained their white robes. They had to trim their wicks of understanding. To do that they had to get rid of all spirits and doctrines that darkened and dimmed their light. The virgins first had to remove this carbonaceous sediment, the soot on the wick, so that the oil may flow freely to fuel the flame. Then the wick (of twisted flax) would be adjusted once the soot had been removed. The trimming would revive the light to its brilliance as long as there was oil in the lamp.

THE TEN VIRGINS

However, the foolish virgins soon discovered to their horror that there was but little oil left in their lamps by reason that their *“lamps are gone out”*. (The correct translation should be that their *“lamps are going out”*.) That is, the flame of their lamps were bobbing, showing sign that the wick was not able to provide a constant flow of what little oil was left in the lamps to the flame. Without the oil, the light in their lamps would soon go out and they would not be able to find their way to meet the bridegroom. They needed the oil badly. They needed to *“be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph.5:18; 3:19; Col.1:9). It was too late by the time they realized that whatever “sensations, signs and wonders”, which they had depended on, were not good enough. Asking the wise for some of their oil only resulted in them receiving a rebuke, *“Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.”* **Yes, it was time for the two groups of virgins to go their separate ways.**

In real life Christians would be willing to share or to give a share to those who are in need. But this parable concerns spiritual life and spiritual matters. Though certain spiritual blessings can be shared and imparted, the spiritual oil of the Lord cannot for it is supplied only to those who are willing to buy. And one can only do so through an exchange. **Remember: one must give up something in exchange for what one desires to purchase.**

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear; and come unto me: hear; and your soul shall live;...” (Isa.55:1-3a). *“Be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph.5:18). *“Be filled with all the fulness of God”* (Eph.3:19). *“Be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness”* (Col.1:9b-11). A believer must have an ear to hear what the Spirit says in order to receive it. *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”* (Rev.2:7). And the more a believer purchases of the Spirit and the Word, the easier will it be for him to hear the Voice of the Spirit as he matures in the Faith. It becomes a part of his spiritual life. **Remember: the first experience with the OIL of the Lord is never enough for any true worshipper.** *“Be filled with the Spirit”* (Eph.5:18). The wick must be continuously supplied with the oil. The wick and the oil, both acting as “one”, give light (life) to the lamp (Christian) just as the Word and the Spirit are one (Jhn.6:63). The Holy Spirit is always connected to the Word and the Works of God.

The Oil Merchants

Seeing that soon their lamps would consume the last of the oil, the foolish virgins had no choice but to quickly rush off in search of those who sell oil. If they could obtain the oil quickly, they would be able to make it back in time to meet the Bridegroom and partake of the Marriage Feast. But who were these Sellers of Oil? Who were these Oil Merchants?

These Oil Merchants refer to Preachers of the Holy Spirit Baptism. In the natural there are different kinds of oil. Some oil merchants strictly only sell a specific type of oil, while others sell a variety of oils. There are still others who will even sell a mixture of different kinds of oils. As in the natural, so also are they in the spiritual. In the beginning of the 20th Century during the outpouring of the Spirit, there was only one kind of Oil. And the Merchants of God began selling only this one precious Oil. But in less than a decade some Oil Merchants began selling blends of the **Original Oil**, while others sold varieties of oils on the side. To majority of the buyers, this did not amount to much since all oils would fuel the flame in a lamp. That may be true. However, if the Maker of the lamps specifies only one particular type of Oil for His lamps (in the parable it is olive oil), He has reason for that requisite. (Note: A well-informed motorist will never use any low octane fuel for the high performance engine of his valuable car. It will spoil the engine. The maker of the car will not honour the warranty of the engine if the owner insists on using a different grade or quality of fuel. Think about it. The natural types the spiritual.)

Clearly the foolish virgins knew that time was of the essence. The Bridegroom was not far for the messenger had heralded "*The Bridegroom cometh!*" Unless they could go quickly and obtain the necessary OIL from the Oil Merchant(s) and rush back in time, they would not only miss meeting the Bridegroom but also the marriage feast. They went as quickly as they could to the market places in search of Oil Merchants — not just any oil merchants but the ONES who sold the Original Oil.

Now, there are numerous "Holy Spirit Baptism" Preachers (Oil Merchants) scattered throughout the entire Church World. There are as many such "Oil" Preachers, as there are the types of oil they sell. However, there is only one kind of OIL to be used by the true lamps of God — the "Olive Oil", the Holy Spirit of Life. When it is lit, it has a **certain characteristic** and a **certain smell**. Though other oils, such as peanut oil, palm oil and coconut oil will light a fire, their characteristics and smells are discernibly different. Remember that God "*is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (cf. Heb.4:12).

THE TEN VIRGINS

Getting the right OIL is of utmost importance. The Original Oil that was poured out in the early 20th Century that brought about the Pentecostal Movement is no longer as easily available today as it was in the first 50 years. Soon after that period came the Charismatic Movement, a movement that emerged from the many denominational “home prayer fellowship” gatherings. This “New Pentecostal” produced a new breed of Oil Merchants. While “Pentecostal” was seen by the vast majority of the Protestant churches as being of Satan, “Charismatic” was embraced almost by all, even the Roman Catholic church. Sad to say, even the Pentecostals have since gone the way of the Charismatics. The Pentecostals could not in anyway not be a part of the movement for they were the people who had formulated the teaching that “speaking in tongues is the evidence of having the baptism of the Holy Spirit”. Hence, according to such teaching, any Roman Catholic or attendee from any denomination church, who speaks in tongues possesses the Holy Spirit.

In those days the Pentecostals depended upon the power of the Lord to get the Truth across. They bore strong spiritual and moral convictions to the faith and were living examples of it. On the other hand, the Charismatics were not so. Men and women dressed as they liked contrary to the modest demand of the Scriptures. Women cross-dressed in men’s garments or wore skimpy dresses. Contrary to the Word of God which states that a woman must have long hair (1Cor.11:14-15), many had their hair cut short and even styled just like the men. These believers followed in the manner of their preachers (not forgetting their woman preachers as well), who dressed like movie stars or “pop” stars. It was not uncommon to see worldly personalities from the movie and television industries taking up the pulpit to speak as if they were preachers of God. What an influence! With such a magnitude of influence to draw people into their churches, how could they preach what they could not live up to.

Today, the many Scriptural doctrines that the Pentecostals had once contended for are no longer so fervently contended for. As I have said before, Charismaticism is a tool in the hand of Satan to bring all denominations together under one head. It is aiding the spirit of ecumenism by helping to bring all the tares together to form a One World Church organized under the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man, that is, love and unity. To achieve this, Satan must destroy the very truth that is being restored in this last Church Age. And through Charismaticism he is able to achieve this very easily, something he could not do before it existed.

With such an offering the Foolish Virgins went looking for that ONE specific type of OIL they needed from among all these many different Oil Merchants. Would they be able to recognize the OIL? Would they be able to find IT in time?

Those That Were Ready

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.*

“*And while they went to buy*” denotes that a period of time was spent by the foolish virgins in looking for the Oil Merchants. The Bridegroom came during that period of time. The forerunner of Christ’s Second Advent had come to herald His *Parousia* (Coming, Presence), to introduce Christ the Word to the virgins (as written in the parable). And the wise virgins who were ready went forth to meet the Bridegroom and went with Him into the marriage (feast). [Note: The word “marriage” so used here speaks of the “marriage feast”, cf. Mat.22:2,4.]

Now, remember that the parable features the virgins as bridesmaids of the bride, and certainly they are not the ones marrying the bridegroom. In the natural the wedding ceremony would immediately begin. The bridegroom and his bride would exchange their vows in the presence of all the family members, relatives and invited guests, and of course, the bridesmaids (virgins). When the solemnization is over, the feasting then begins. These are momentous occasions that the virgins look forward to, to meet with the bridegroom and usher him into the marriage. Of course, we understand the implication that these individual wise virgins (in the parable) refer to members who will make up the spiritual Bride of Christ. As such, in the parable, they were enjoying a personal spiritual intimacy with the Lord as they feasted with Him in the Word of God. They were getting themselves ready as the Wife of Christ for the Rapture while the foolish virgins were frantically trying to buy oil from the many different oil merchants. The marriage feast has already started and is still going on at this present time. It will continue until the door is shut.

That is right. The **spiritual Marriage Feast** is still going on at this present time. It is not over yet. Many have misinterpreted verse 10: “*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and immediately the door was shut*”. Those who teach that the parable is about the Rapture hold to such misinterpretation. They have ignored even the time element shown by the word “*while*”.

The phrase “*and the door was shut*” refers to the wedded couple entering their nuptial chamber, shutting themselves in. [Note: Except for that of royalties, ancient oriental wedding feasts were almost always out in an open area (in a village or town) and there was no door. Any guest who arrived late simply joined in the feasting. A simple marriage celebration had only a night of feasting for all present and when that was over, the bridegroom and bride entered the nuptial chamber. The door of the room was then shut. Cf. Lk.13:25 Lk.11:7.]

THE TEN VIRGINS

When the Midnight Cry was sounded forth in 1956, the Wise Virgins were awakened and they trimmed their lamps. They, having the OIL and with their lamps burning bright, understood the message and all the specifics that came with it. They immediately went forth to meet the Bridegroom and to enter with Him into the Marriage Feast. Since that time, there have been many virgins, who were awakened by the SHOUT or the commotion created through the corridor of the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. Upon wakening, they too trimmed their lamps. Those, having not the OIL, began searching for Oil Merchants. Those who had the OIL went straight to meet the Bridegroom and into the Marriage Feast. I was one of them. I was asleep in the system of the Assemblies of God in the 1960s, and was awakened in the mid-1971 by the SHOUT (message).

Throughout the years since 1956, from time to time, wise virgins within the other denominational systems have also been aroused from their sleep by the commotion. They woke up to investigate and found that the *Parousia* of the Lord Jesus Christ had taken place. They obtained information that told them they needed a certain specific OIL in their lamps to enter into the Marriage Feast, and they sought those that sold and purchased the OIL (giving up what they possessed for IT). With the OIL they were able to make themselves ready to enter into the Marriage Feast.

Just Who Are The Foolish Virgins?

But how is it that the wise virgins could meet the Bridegroom and enter into the Marriage Feast? The answer lies in the fact that the wise virgins were always full of the Holy Spirit (OIL). They knew their OIL. They had the OIL VESSELS with them to have a constant supply for the flame. They knew that the OIL, the Spirit of God, would light the way and reveal farther and deeper into His own WORD, to make known to them the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives (cf. Jhn.15:26; 5:39). The foolish virgins were never full of the Spirit but had just what they need of Him. Such are the many Pentecostals and the Charismatics even today. However, notice that the parable does not just tell about the virgins and the oil in their lamps but also about them being awakened by the CRY of the messenger. **Remember: both the wise and the foolish virgins heard the CRY of the messenger. They all heard the SHOUT. They all heard the MESSAGE.** Yet only the wise fully UNDERSTOOD the message and the added blessings and revelations uttered by the messenger. But many of the virgins who had heard the CRY, whether it be in the late 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s or 1990s, still have yet to enter into the Marriage Feast because they have not the OIL to get them to the Bridegroom and the Marriage Feast. Are they not the Foolish Virgins?

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

Let me say this: **as long as a Christian does not see, realize and understand that she needs OIL, she will remain perpetually in religious darkness.** She has no light and she has fallen into a deep sleep. She is NOT a virgin for a virgin has OIL. However, for the virgin who has little oil remaining, she must quickly refill her lamp lest the oil runs out and she finds herself in religious darkness. When she has her lamp refilled, she will be able to make herself ready to go and meet the Bridegroom and partake of the Marriage Feast before the door is shut.

There are many VIRGINS who have heard the Message of the messenger, Bro. Branham, but they have not followed through into the Marriage Feast. (The Marriage Feast is the revelation of the Word which the Lord has spread out by His "Ascension Gifts" Ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.) These virgins are still confused for they do not know how to get ready to enter into the feast. They are confused by the many "oil merchants" within the Message Movement selling their blends of oil concerning the message of the hour. Some of these "preachers" even advocated the message itself to be the OIL. These preachers emphasized that a Christian must embrace the message otherwise he does not have the Holy Spirit. (They are just like the Pentecostal and Charismatic preachers who preach that a Christian must speak in tongues otherwise he does not have the Holy Spirit.) Some display a religious placard proclaiming, "STAY WITH THE MESSAGE! Unless you stay with the message you are not a wise virgin". They tell the Christians to "*come and meet the messenger and stay with his message*" instead of "*obey the message of the messenger and go to meet the Bridegroom and get into the marriage*". These preachers have missed the mark concerning the OIL and the MESSAGE! And yet many virgins within the Message Movement are looking to all these preachers for the OIL that they need in order to take them into the Marriage Feast but instead they are receiving other types of oil. Nevertheless, if there be any wise virgin amongst them she would not only recognize that the oil these Pentecostal and Charismatic "Oil Merchants" are offering today is totally different from that offered by those "Oil Merchants" in the beginning of the 20th Century, but also that which is offered by the Message "Oil Merchants" of the present day. **The true OIL has a distinctive sweet smelling savor that pleases God.**

Oh virgins of God, why standest thou gazing at the messenger? Why art thou holding to his words and yet obeyest not the instruction of his words? Stop gazing at the man, though he be a man of God. If thou art wise, shouldst thou not have the oil by this time? Have thou not understood that the Spirit dwellest in His Own Word? Have thou not understood that the message calleth thee to meet the Christ, to enter into the Marriage and feast with Him in the Word and, to be made perfect by the 5-Fold Ministry? Thou hath ears, yet hearest thou not? **Come out, and go to meet the Word!** That is the message.

THE TEN VIRGINS

Speaking in “tongues” is not the OIL — the Holy Spirit is the OIL. The power to heal the sick and cast out demons is not the OIL — the Holy Spirit is the OIL. The message of the messenger is not the OIL — the Holy Spirit is the OIL. You may speak in “tongues”, you may heal the sick and cast out demons, you may believe the message, but have you entered into the Marriage? You may think you are in the Marriage, but you are only deceiving yourself if you are not in the Present Ministry where the Lord has spread His table of Spiritual Food for the Elect. Only the true OIL can take you into THE WORD, nothing else. Again, the Holy Spirit will not just lead you into some sensations, some revelations and some gifts, but He will lead and guide you into ALL TRUTH (Jhn.16:13). **Are you willing to buy? Can you give up “certain possessions” of yours in exchange for the OIL?**

Lamentation

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.*

Well, by the time the foolish virgins rushed back (having finally recognized and purchased the true OIL), hoping to meet up with the other virgins, to meet the Bridegroom and at least enter into the Marriage Feast, they were just too late. The door had closed. The feasting was over. Oh, lamentation! *“Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer”* (Lam.3:8 cf.Prov.1:27-29; Zech.7:13). Cry and howl, O foolish ones! There is nothing that can change history once the prophetic time slips by. The night had passed. The dawn was breaking.

[Note: Some ministers use Matthew 7:21-23 to support their teaching that the foolish virgins were not saved because of the Lord’s rebuff to their plea — *“I know you not”*. But those people mentioned in Matthew 7:21-23 were called *“workers of iniquity”* who were told to *“depart”* from the Lord. This was not so with the foolish virgins. It does not mean that the Lord did not know them as they were but rather He did not know them as intimately as those who are married to Him by spiritual revelation of the Word, as a man and his wife are joined together in holy wedlock (cf. Eph.5:25-32; Eph.4; Rev.19:7). Those *“workers of iniquity”* are the preachers found especially among the tares, the many false Christs and the false anointed ones that we see in the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement. They have the anointing for the works (in which they reward themselves) but they lack the anointing of the WORD. They do many wonderful works — preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons and all other religious works. But the one thing they fail to do is to fulfill the Will of God, which is His Word (cf.Mat.3:15; Col.1:25).]

PROPHETIC*REVELATION

Had the Foolish Virgins purchased the right OIL sooner they would have made it in time for the Marriage Feast while the door was still opened (Rev.3:7-8,17-20). They were gone too long in their search. Perhaps they lingered while they searched for the OIL. Perhaps they struggled over the purchase of the OIL, not willing to pay for IT to replace the blend of oil they had long possessed. Or, perhaps, like the Branhamites, they were immersed in the 'Message of Branham' for too long, possibly searching for some special revelations beyond the simplicity of the message. The foolish virgins had missed the table of solid nutritious food brought forth by the Present Truth Ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (2Pet.1:12; Eph.4:11). Yes, since the departure of the messenger, these faithful servants of the Lord had been dishing out "meat in due season" for the last days. It was meat to grow by, a feast provided "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph.4:12-16).

The foolish virgins will remain foolish until it is too late. Having started their journey foolishly, it is difficult for them to ever come to the realization of the importance of getting the true OIL before it is too late. They have also failed to realize that the revelation of God and His Word is always progressive and of the importance of looking into the Holy Scriptures that God has written. This is true for many are just buying blends of oils peddled by "Oil Merchants" in the Message Movement while others, for fear of purchasing the wrong type of oil, stay home and repeatedly listen to the taped messages. They cannot see the forest for the trees. They miss the important thing that the messenger was trying to tell them and instead cling on to every minute word he ever spoke believing that he can bring to them a *rapturing faith* for the rapture. The Glory of the Lord will be revealed if one dares to look into His Word. "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me" (Psa.40:7 cf. Heb.10:7; Jhn.5:39-40). The Apostle Paul said: "Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2Cor.3:16-18 NKJ).

THE TEN VIRGINS

After the Marriage Feast is over and the door is closed, the Lord will no longer open up the Word of God to those on the outside. The wise virgins, making up the Bride of Christ, would be sealed in. The Lord will not let any one trouble Him as He and His beloved are shut in together for that grand period of wedlock. In the Nuptial Chamber the Bride becomes Wife as she unites with the Bridegroom in Spirit and in Word! Once she is Wife, the Lord will give her the final revelation that will take her to the Father's Home. This revelation will come about through the utterances of the Seven Thunders of the Book of Revelation (chapter 10). What the Apostle John heard uttered by the Seven Thunders could not be written but it will be made known to the Bride when she as Christ's Wife is made ready. *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb"* (Rev.19:7-9).

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph.5:25-27). This is the reason why we enter into this marriage, not just to feast on the Word but also to be cleansed by the Word. We cannot be cleansed by some religious experience or some spiritual gifts. Neither can we be cleansed by the words of Bro. Branham or any other gifted preachers. We can only be cleansed by the revelation of the Word of God. The Word washes us in Spirit and in Truth.

Warning

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

Let us take heed to this warning and be watchful while there is still time, while the door is still open. Once the last of the wise virgins makes it into the marriage and the feasting is over, the wise virgins will have eaten their fill. Not only that, all the wise virgins will also have been greatly loved and strengthened by the Presence of their Lord at the Marriage Table. Amen.

There are many Christians who have been awakened to the commotion created by the SHOUT but they have gone back to slumbering in their denominational system. They may claim they are virgins but only to their own deception. Virgins are no longer virgins, if they 'sleep' with the system of man, for that is religious harlotry. Being seduced to wear harem pants (loose-fitting women's trousers

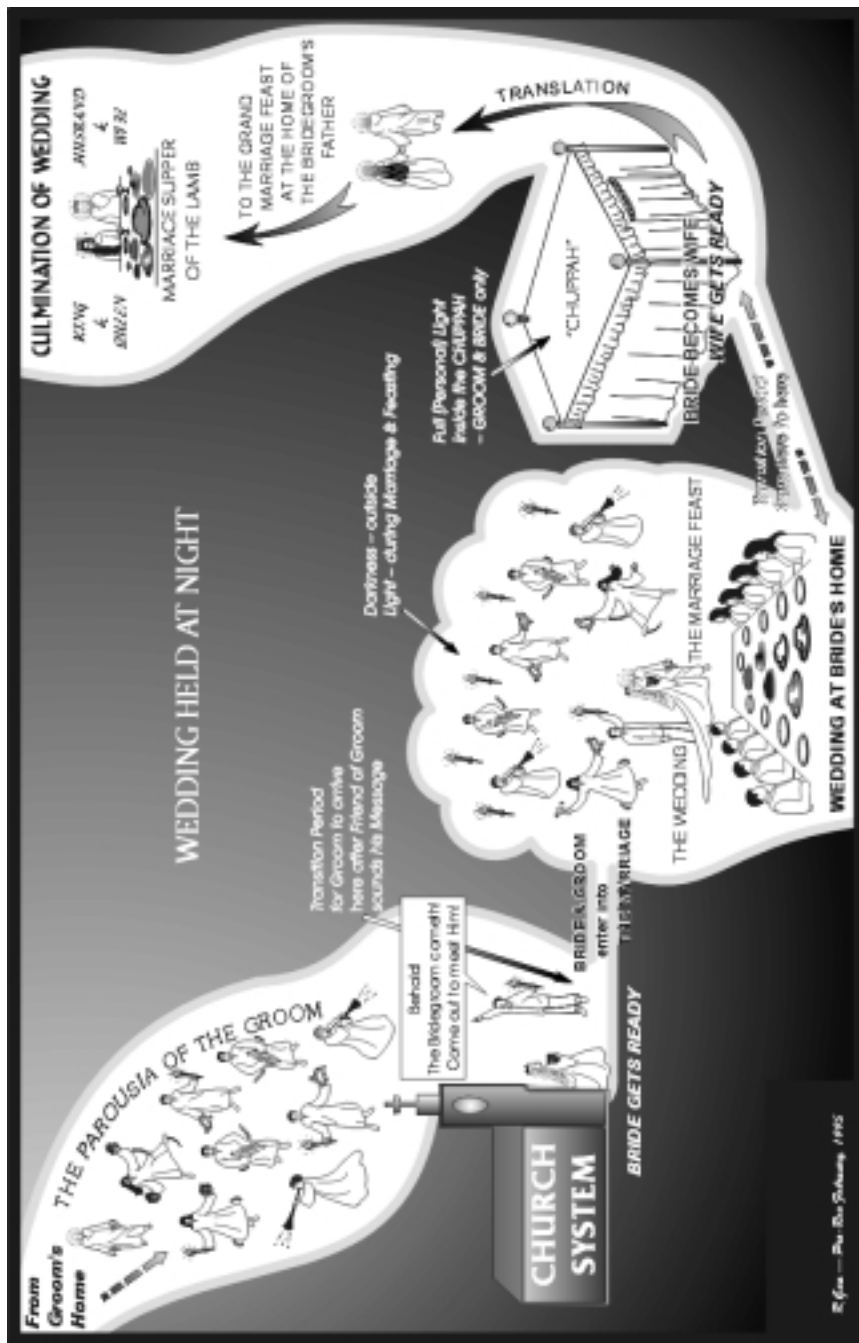
PROPHETIC*REVELATION

made of thinly translucent fabric that expose their nakedness) they seduce others. What deception! If you have the light why do you live in darkness? The Apostle John said: *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness [that is, tradition] at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1Jhn.1:5-7).

Saints, the marriage feast has commenced and is still on. Enter and sup while you can. And when you do, you have to have the wedding garment on (cf. Mat.22:1-14). No guest can enter into the Marriage Feast without the proper garment of God's Word. The Lord has provided the garment. By refusing to wear that chosen garment of the Lord, a guest is testifying to the fact that whatever garment he has on is good enough. It also testifies of his rebellious spirit. Such a guest will be speechless when judgement comes and he hears the words *“I know you not”*, only to find himself cast into the outer darkness of the Great Tribulation.

O hear the cry of the Lord, those that be a part of the Holy City, New Jerusalem. *“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean”* (Isa.52:1 cf. Eph.6:13-18).





Edwin — Po. Du. Schreyer / JWS

REVELATION 10: THE FINAL EVENTS

