

Jesus' parable of the ten virgins

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.” -- Matthew 25 : 1 – 13

In the book of Matthew, we get several parables of Jesus in regard to His kingdom on earth, which is especially directed to the people of God who are living in the time of the end. One of them is the parable of a householder who had issued five calls during a day work, to hire workers to work in his vineyard. This is also a parable of the kingdom of heaven that is likened to the householder and his workers. The same kingdom of heaven is again likened here unto ten virgins. Five of them are wise, and the other five are foolish.

Due to the fact that the interpretations of the parables were not yet available in the New Testament Scriptures, then we have to find them interpreted in our time, in this time of the end. Sister White said:

“In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will, and the course that He would have them pursue.” – 5 Testimonies for the Church, p. 661.

The Lord is speaking to us now by the testimonies of His Spirit, which is THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY. By the parables and their interpretations in the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, the Lord is instructing us more earnestly concerning His will and the course that He would have us pursue.

So the procedure of how the Lord Jesus speaks to us in this time is as follows:

1. First : The parables were first spoken directly to Matthew, the apostle, who then documented them in the New Testament Bible.
2. Second : The interpretations of the parables in the time of the end, were given by Jesus to His Spirit, Who is to represent Him after His mission on earth accomplished in 31.
3. Third : From His Spirit to His prophets, Sister Ellen G. White and Brother Victor T. Houteff, who have documented them in the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.
4. Fourth : Sister White called it, The Testimonies of His (JESUS) SPIRIT, because she received it from the SPIRIT, and not directly from JESUS.

The Laodicean Church in 1844 Represented by only the five wise virgins

Prior to the Laodicean period, we have the period of the Church of Philadelphia, with William Miller, as the servant of God. Miller began his activities in 1831, and with his associates they were proclaiming the message of the prophecy of 2,300 days of Daniel 8 : 14 up to 1844. The proclamation of the message reached its peak in 1844, when the Christian world had been divided into two main groups: the people of God of the Laodiceans on the one side, and those who have been categorized into the fallen Babylon, to meet the proclamation of the second angel message of Revelation 14 : 8, on the other side. Of this same division, Sister White said:

*“In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,” was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed --- one class who looked with joy to the Lord’s appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, “they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.” – **The Great Controversy, p. 426***

*“The proclamation, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,” in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom. “They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” They were not to be present in person at the marriage; for it takes place in heaven, while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding. Luke 12 : 36. But they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.” – **Ibid., p. 427.***

The Bridegroom in the parable represented Jesus. The Bridegroom came not to the earth, but to the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary. Those who were ready went in with Him into the heavenly sanctuary, that is, their names were brought in there by Jesus to be registered in the book of life. Therefore, ever since 1844 the names of the people of God represented by the five wise virgins, were not only registered in the Church book here on the earth, but also in the book of life in the heavenly sanctuary. This is why Sister White said: *“The Church of God below is one with the Church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven who have never fallen constitute one Church.” – **6 Testimonies, p. 366***

Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins seemed to be fulfilled first in the Philadelphian Church. And beginning in 1844 the membership of the Laodicean Church would comprise only those of the five wise virgins. In their prime spiritual condition of the five wise virgins ever since the beginning, Seventh-Day Adventists have performed a very spectacular progress in the world. Under the leadership of Sister Ellen G. White as the servant of the Lord, Seventh-Day Adventists have successfully penetrated in many parts of the world, even unto the mainland of China, into most of Asia and the Pacific, in most parts of Europe, and up the island states of the sea. However, several years later, even when she was still alive, in her appeal written in California May 30, 1882, Sister White warned us in the following words:

“I am filled with sadness when I think of our condition as a people. The Lord has not closed heaven to us, but our own course of continual backsliding has separated us from God.The Church has turned back from following Christ her Leader and is steadily retreating toward Egypt. Yet few are alarmed or astonished at their want of spiritual power. Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated. God has spoken to you. Light has been shining from His word and from the testimonies, and both have been slighted and disregarded. The result is apparent in the lack of purity and devotion and earnest faith among us.” --- 5 Testimonies, p. 217.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church was again comprised of Ten Virgins

Since the Seventh-Day Adventist Church or the Church of the Laodiceans, is the last Church of God, in the time of the end, then the following words of Sister White must fully apply to us, because she said:

*“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ’s second coming. All have knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard,” Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,” many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.” – **Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 408.***

The Church was again represented by the ten virgins. But for a time there was seen no difference between them, because all have the same knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ’s near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. However, the problem now is what had made some of God’s people again fall into the sin of the five foolish virgins?

The only sin committed by the foolish virgins in the time of Miller, was the sin against the Holy Spirit. This is the sin against the message of truth brought by Miller and his associates. And that is the sin that separated them from the five wise virgins in 1844. From the history of the Church after the 1844, the sins of “Doubt, and even disbelief of the testimonies of the Spirit of God, is leavening our churches everywhere. Satan would have it thus. Ministers who preach self instead of Christ would have it thus. The testimonies are unread and unappreciated,” mentioned by Sister White in 1882 had led many of the wise virgins to the rejection of Waggoner and Jones and their message of “Righteousness by Faith” presented in General Conference of SDA of 1888 held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. This is the sin against the Holy Spirit of God that caused the fall of the angel of the Church of Laodicea into his spiritual lukewarm ness ever since 1890. And here is fulfilled the word in the parable:

*“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”— **Matthew 25 : 5.***

And hence in her explanation Sister White said:

“In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just

before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing." -- **Christ's Object Lessons, p. 408.**

The message of "*Righteousness by Faith*" proclaimed by Waggoner and Jones in 1888 is not a new light. It is the same message of faith ever known in the early New Testament period by the apostles and their people. And even by Luther as his base of struggle against the Pope. And particularly, that the message came when Sister White was still active in their midst. The servant of the Lord died in 1915. Therefore based upon that message alone, the difference between the five wise virgins and the five foolish ones could not be directly identified. They all slumbered and slept. And for a time there was seen no difference between them, until the cry is heard: Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him!

"The proclamation: Behold the Bridegroom cometh!" means the messages of new light

From the following quotation we read:

*"In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh," was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed --- one class who looked with joy to the Lord's appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, "they that were ready went in with him to the marriage." -- **The Great Controversy, p. 426***

We all know for sure that the message proclaimed by William Miller and his associates, was the new light of the prophecy of Daniel 8 : 14 that had separated the two classes of the virgins in 1844. This is to prove that in the parable of the ten virgins; the message of a new light is represented by, "*the proclamation, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.*"

And next in the parable: "*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*" -- **Matthew 25 : 5 – 8.**

After the message of, "*Righteousness by Faith*", by Waggoner and Jones, failed to arouse the people to the testimonies of the Spirit of God (Read: Testimonies, vol. 5, p.217 above), during the long hours of waiting, while the bridegroom tarried, then came the midnight. And in the darkest hour of the night there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him. This is the new message of the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 that came in 1929 to unite his voice with the third angel's message. The coming of the message of the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 in 1929 to unite his voice with the message of the third angel should be first presented to the angel of the church of Laodicea. And then the following statement in the book of Revelation will be fulfilled:

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." -- **Revelation 3 : 14 – 16.**

In her explanation on the statement Sister White said:

“What greater deception can come upon human minds than a confidence that they are right when they are all wrong! The message of the True Witness finds the people of God in a sad deception, yet honest in that deception. They know not that their condition is deplorable in the sight of God. While those addressed are flattering themselves that they are in an exalted spiritual condition, the message of the True Witness breaks their security by the startling denunciation of their true condition of spiritual blindness, poverty, and wretchedness. The testimony, so cutting and severe, cannot be a mistake, for it is the True Witness who speaks, and His testimony must be correct.” – 1 Testimony Treasures, p.p. 327, 328.

The message of the True Witness is symbolized by the message of the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 that has united his voice with the third’s angel message. This message of the True Witness finds the people of God in 1929. when the message was first presented to the angel of the Church of the Laodiceans in the United States of America. The spiritual condition condemned by the True Witness is the result of the rejection of the message presented previously by Waggoner and Jones in 1888.

Now it is clear that, *“The Proclamation: Behold, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him,”* specifically means the message of the new light. It first applied to the message of the new light of the prophecy of Daniel 8 : 14, proclaimed by William Miller, and be completed later by Mrs. Ellen G. White in her Spirit of Prophecy publications. And secondly it was applied to the message of the Shepherd’s Rod as the new light by Victor T. Houteff that came in 1929.

The function of the message of “Righteousness by Faith in Christ”

Despite the fact that the message of ‘Righteousness by Faith in Christ’ by Waggoner and Jones is not a new light, it is actually playing a very important role in preparing the people for the coming of the new light of the message of the Shepherd’s Rod in 1929. Hence with the coming of the message of *“**Righteousness by Faith in Christ**”* in 1888, then Sister White said:

“The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel (the angel of Revelation 18 : 1) whose glory shall fill the whole earth.” – Review and Herald, November 22, 1892. (In brackets is added).

“A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard,” Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,” many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.”-- Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 408.

The beginning of the light of the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 came in 1888. Then a time of waiting intervened for about 40 years, between 1888 and 1929, and the faith of the people was tried during the time of test. And when the cry is heard, Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him, which represents the coming of the message of the Shepherd Rod in 1929, many were unready. They had no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They were destitute of the Spirit of God. This is the spiritual condition of our Church which is represented by the kingdom of heaven in this parable, ever since 1929 up to this day. That is why Sister White said:

“We all need to study as never before the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. This is the holy oil represented in Zechariah (Zech. 4 : 11 – 14 quoted). This representation is of the highest consequence to those who claim to know the truth. But if we do not practice the truth, we have not received the holy oil, which the two golden pipes empty out of themselves. The oil is received into vessels prepared for the oil. It is the Holy Spirit in the heart which works by love and purifies the soul.....” – **EGW. Bible Commentary, Vol. 7 – A, p. 189.**

Distinction between the wise and the foolish virgins after 1929, very conspicuous

After the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 united his voice with the third angel of Revelation 14 : 9, which resulted in the great light of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY, enlightening the earth, there were only wise virgins who seemed to have embraced the new light without delay. Whereas those foolish virgins, due to their reluctance to receive the message of “Righteousness by Faith” presented them previously, in 1888, the last message of the Shepherd’s Rod which is represented by the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 is no more attractive to their attention. Thus is the case similar to the one that happened before, when Sister White said: *“Those who rejected and opposed the light of the first angel’s message, lost the light of the second, and could not be benefited by the power and glory which attended the message, “Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.” Jesus turned from them with a frown; for they had slighted and rejected Him.”* – **Early Writings, p. 249.**

Thereby as soon as the glory of the message of the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY began to enlighten our churches ever since 1929, then the previous call for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation by Sister White, in the Review and Herald of February 25, 1902, began to be enacted and obeyed. Sister White said:

“God calls for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation. Unless this takes place, those who are lukewarm will continue to grow more abhorrent to the Lord, until He will refuse to acknowledge them as His children.

“A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.” – **Review and Herald, February 25, 1902.**

The process of re-organizing the General Conference of SDA was accomplished in 1935, when the General Association of Davidian Seventh-Day Adventists was established in Waco, Texas, USA. And from here God’s call for a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation began to be proclaimed to the churches even up to now. The next instruction given to Sister White in her **next vision in 1903** was also begun to be obeyed. In that vision she said:

“In vision I saw two armies in terrible conflict. One army was led by banners bearing the world’s insignia; the other was led by the bloodstained banner of Prince Immanuel. Standard after standard was left to trail in the dust as company after company from the Lord’s army

joined the foe and tribe after tribe from the ranks of the enemy united with the commandment-keeping people of God. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, while a mighty general cried out with a loud voice: "Come into line. Let those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Christ now take their position. Come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean, and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters. Let all who will come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." -- **Testimony for the Church, volume, 8, p. 41.**

The conflict is between two classes of the virgins: between those who are loyal to the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, on the one side, and those who oppose the message of the new light, on the other side. Thus the conflict must be within the church. An angel flying in the midst of heaven put the standard of Immanuel into many hands, must represent the angel of Revelation 18 : 1, which is the message of the new light that came in 1929. And the mighty general who cried out with a loud voice: "Come into line", is unavoidably pointing to the Lord God Himself. To this end Sister White warned us as follows,

"There are many who have a merely nominal faith, but this faith will not save you. Many believe in Christ because somebody else does, because the minister has told them this or that; but if you rest your faith only on the minister's word, you will be lost. You must not do as did the foolish virgins, who, when the cry came, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,' found no oil in their vessels." – **2 Review and Herald, p. 335.**

The Coming of the Bridegroom

Sister White said:

*"The coming of the Bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called the "bride, the Lamb's wife." Said the angel to John: 'Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.' 'He carried me away in the spirit,' says the prophet, 'and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.' Revelation 21 : 9, 10. Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19 : 9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride. Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;" He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Daniel 7 : 14; Revelation 21 : 2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are "to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob," at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8 : 11; Luke 22 : 30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb." – **The Great Controversy, pp. 426, 427.***

We have to know that there are in the parable only two proclamations calling our attentions to: "*Behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.*" And they represent two messages of new light on the Bible doctrines. The first represents the message of the Investigative Judgment on the cases of the dead, in the heavenly court, by William Miller and Sister White, which has begun at the end of the 2300 prophetic days of Daniel 8 : 14, in 1844. And the second is the message of the Investigative Judgment on the cases of the living by Victor

T. Houteff. We also have to know that it is in the process of the purification of the church, that the investigative judgment should take place in the heavenly court.

The coming of the bridegroom is not a message. It first represents the coming of Jesus into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, in 1844, to officiate in the heavenly court on our behalf as the Redeemer. Due to the fact, that the first proclamation has met its fulfillment in 1844, then the second must come to pass sometime in the near future. This is according to the new light of the message of the angel of Revelation 18 : 1 we have received in 1929. And so as the result of the investigative judgment on the cases of the living, there is to emerge a numbered company of 144.000 from among the wise virgins, who are to stand on the mount Sion in the Palestine with the Lamb. To this end John the Revelator said:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins.” – Revelation 14 : 1, 4.

The Lamb is none other than the Bridegroom himself. Jesus was seen as a Lamb signifying His position before the close of the time of probation.” *The coming of the Bridegroom, takes place before the marriage.*” thus said Sister White. That means, prior to the marriage to take place in heaven, Jesus as the Bridegroom should first come to the earth to establish the purified kingdom of the five wise virgins of the 144.000 on the mount Sion in Palestine.

The marriage reception of the Lamb in the heavenly court

The purified kingdom started with only a numbered company of the 144.000 of the wise virgins. Whereas Jesus’ work as a mediator in the heavenly court was not as yet finished. Therefore, as the Lamb, Jesus was yet to return to accomplish His work in the heavenly court, up to the close of the time of probation. Sister White said:

“He ‘shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne,’ Not now upon the throne of His glory;” the kingdom of glory has not yet been ushered in. Not until His work as a mediator shall be ended will God “give unto Him the throne of His father David,” a kingdom of which “there shall be no end.” Luke 1 : 32, 33.” – The Great Controversy, p. 416.

The marriage reception of the Lamb will be held in heaven, at the close of the time of probation. At that time, the Lord God will give Jesus the throne of an everlasting kingdom of His father David. Then from the following quotations we read:

“The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called the “bride, the Lamb’s wife.” Said the angel to John: ‘Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ‘He carried me away in the spirit,’ says the prophet, ‘and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.’ Revelation 21 : 9, 10. Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19 : 9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride...”-- The Great Controversy, pp. 426, 427.

Since the marriage reception is to be held in heaven, whereas the kingdom and the people were still on the earth, then as soon as God had given to Jesus the throne of His father David, in that marriage reception of the Lamb, He would have to return to the earth.” *The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called the “bride, the Lamb’s wife.”* Jesus would return to the earth in a new status as a husband, to fulfill His promise to His disciples in the past, when He said:

“Let not your heart be troubled: Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” – **John 14 : 1 – 3.**

Jesus is to return as King of kings and Lord of lords

Sister White said:

“Having received the kingdom , He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are “to sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,” at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8 : 11; Luke 22 : 30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.” – **The Great Controversy, pp. 427.**

The purified kingdom started with only a numbered company of the 144.000 of the wise virgins, whereas Jesus’ work as a mediator in the heavenly court was not as yet finished. Therefore, as the Lamb, He was yet to return to the heavenly sanctuary to accomplish His work there up to the close of the time of probation. This is to meet its fulfillment in the Revelation 8 : 1, 3.

During the half an hour silence of Revelation 8 : 1, Jesus would have been seen standing with the 144.000 on the mount Sion in Palestine. He would have picked someone out of the numbered company to sit with Him in His throne. In the book of Revelation Jesus said: *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.”* – **Revelation 3 : 21.**

Then the purified kingdom of the wise virgins will be governed by a king, chosen by Jesus Himself from within their own ranks. He will be the antitypical David who is to reign for ever and ever. This is according to the following prophetic words of Ezekiel:

“And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.” – **Ezekiel 37 : 25.**

So when Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, He would first be King and Lord of the antitypical king David of the purified kingdom of our world. Then He would also be King and Lord of many unnumbered kings and lords of the un-fallen worlds in the universe of the outer-space.

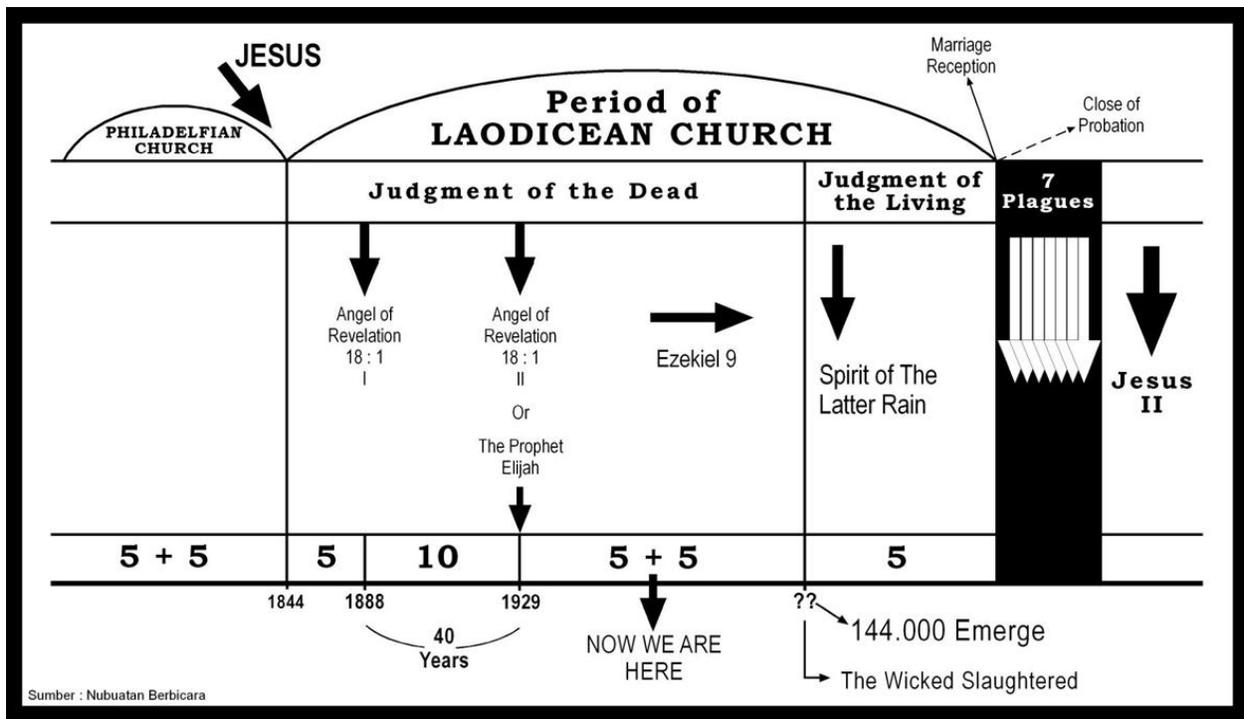
The New Jerusalem shown to John in Revelation 21 : 9, 10 should have descended on the purified kingdom’s land of Palestine. And since the future coming of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords would not descend on the ground, He would have taken His people out of this world unto the Heaven of heavens in the outer-space. And this world of sin will be left empty for

the period of one thousand years for the habitation of Satan and his angels. The servant of the Lord in his deliberation of the Flood as a typical event ever said:

“We may not presume that God had brought about these coincidences without an object in view. As the ceasing of the rain is a time type of the end of this world, so the ascension of Christ with those who were resurrected with Him, is a type of the ascension of the saints at the coming of the Lord. It also reveals that His coming would be on Wednesday, and the train of glory shall depart for Heaven of heavens on Thursday. Again we are told that it would take the saints seven days to ascend to the throne of God, and that we shall rest a Sabbath on one of the planets while on the way. From this it is evident that Christ shall come in the middle of the week...” – 2 **Shepherd’s Rod, p. 255.**

The marriage supper of the Lamb would be arranged in the New Jerusalem, in the purified kingdom of the holy land of Palestine, but no more on this earth of sin. The apostle Paul said:

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” – 1 **Thessalonians 4 : 16, 17.**



Concluded

“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.” – **Matthew 25 : 3, 4.**

The problem of the foolish virgins is that they failed to take with them extra oil in their vessels. That when their lamps run out of oil, they could no more keep their lamps burning to enlighten the rest of their journey. For the people of God in this time of the end, the oil in the

lamps must represent the still limited light of truth of the Bible, and the extra oil in the vessels would represent the additional light of truth in the SPIRIT OF PROPHECY publications. The servants of the Lord said:

*“We all need to study as never before the parable of the ten virgins. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. This is the holy oil represented in Zechariah (Zech. 4 : 11 – 14 quoted). This representation is of the highest consequence to those who claim to know the truth. But if we do not practice the truth, we have not received the holy oil, which the two golden pipes empty out of themselves. The oil is received into vessels prepared for the oil. It is the Holy Spirit in the heart which works by love and purifies the soul.....” – **EGW. Bible Commentary, Vol. 7 – A, p. 189.***

*“We would freely give literature to those who ask for it, but that does not give the light. It is only when one appropriates the oil, the Truth, to his everyday living that the oil becomes transformed into light. It is when one pays the priceStudying and believing alone does not open the door. We must comply with all the requirements ---- pay the price in other words.” – **The Symbolic Code, vol. 11, No. 3, p. 11.***

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