

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

²Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

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

⁶“At midnight the cry rang out:

‘Here’s the bridegroom!

Come out to meet him!’

⁷“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸The foolish ones said to the wise,

‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹“‘No,’ they replied,

‘there may not be enough for both us and you.

Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.

The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹“Later the others also came.

‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’

¹²“But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

¹³“Therefore keep watch,

because you do not know the day or the hour.

¹Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

²A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

⁶When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. ⁷But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

⁸The Holy Spirit was showing by this

that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. ¹⁰ They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

¹¹When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹²He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

⁶“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the
poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to
clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and
blood?

⁸Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your
healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory
of the **LORD** will be your rear guard.

⁹Then you will call, and the **LORD** will answer; you will cry
for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger
and malicious talk,

¹⁰and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the
needs of the oppressed,

then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will
become like the noonday.

¹¹The **LORD** will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a
sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose
waters never fail.

¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the
age-old foundations;

you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets
with Dwellings.

¹³“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as
you please on my holy day,

if you call the Sabbath a delight and the **LORD’S** holy day honorable,
and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you
please or speaking idle words,

¹⁴then you will find your joy in the **LORD**, and I will cause you to
ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance
of your father Jacob.”

The mouth of the **LORD** has spoken.

¹⁴ The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle,
so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert,
where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time,
out of the serpent's reach.

¹⁵ Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river,
to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

¹⁷ Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—
those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

⁷And there was war in heaven.

Michael and his angels fought against the dragon,
and the dragon and his angels fought back.

⁸But he was not strong enough,
and they lost their place in heaven.

⁹The great dragon was hurled down—
that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan,
who leads the whole world astray.

He was hurled to the earth,
and his angels with him.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers,
who accuses them before our God
day and night,
has been hurled down.

¹¹They overcame him

by the blood of the Lamb and
by the word of their testimony;

they did not love their lives so much as to shrink
from death.

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

¹¹They overcame him

by the blood of the Lamb and

by the word of their testimony;

they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

¹²Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

¹³When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

¹⁴The woman was given

the two wings of a great eagle,

so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert,

where she would be taken care of for

a time, times and half a time,

out of the serpent’s reach.

¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

¹⁶But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and

went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—

those who obey God’s commandments and

hold to the testimony of Jesus.

¹See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple;

the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

²But who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can stand when he appears?

For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver;

he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in

righteousness, ⁴and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁵“So I will come near to you for judgment.

I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁶“I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

⁷Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

⁸“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’

“In tithes and offerings.

⁹You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.

Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers,
in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies
as living sacrifices,
holy and
pleasing to God
—this is your spiritual act of
worship.

²Do not conform any longer to the
pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of
your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve
what God's will is—
his good,
pleasing and
perfect will.

²⁴Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you,
and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard
to Christ's afflictions,

for the sake of his body, which is the church.

²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God
gave me to present to you the word of God in its
fullness—

²⁶the mystery

that has been kept hidden for ages and
generations,

but is now disclosed to the saints.

²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among
the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery,
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸We proclaim him,

admonishing and teaching everyone with all
wisdom,

so that we may present everyone perfect
in Christ.

²⁹To this end I labor,

struggling with all his energy,

which so powerfully works in me.

¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

²In my Father’s house are many rooms;

if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him,

“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said,

“Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹Jesus answered:

“Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. ¹⁵“If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

²²Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said,

“But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus replied,

“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

²⁴He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right,

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him,

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply,

‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left,

‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer,

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply,

‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

- ⁶ Then I saw another **angel** flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.
- ⁷ He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”
- ⁸ A **second angel** followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.”
- ⁹ A **third angel** followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,¹⁰ he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.¹¹ And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.”
- ¹² This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority
in heaven and
on earth
has been given to me.

¹⁹Therefore
go and
make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name
of the Father and
of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰and teaching them
to obey everything
I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always,
to the very end of the age.”