

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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A CHRISTMAS PROPHECY
Revisited

About midmorning on Christmas Day, 2002, while Dale was in the kitchen preparing dinner for us and several invited guests, I went in to pray. After I had prayed for a short while, I began to pray in the spirit¹ and that continued for a longer period of time than usual. As I did so I realized that the Lord wanted to say something to me. I then picked up my pen and wrote a prophecy He gave to me on the rapture² of the Church. The simultaneous celebration of both *His arrival on the earth* (Christmas day) and *our departure from the earth* (the Rapture) *to meet Him in the air* somehow makes me want to shout. But giving me this prophecy on Christmas Day is just like the Lord. You can't beat His timing.

Jesus gave us the following parable concerning the Rapture as reported in the book of Matthew. The parable and my explanation that follows will serve as an introduction to the prophecy. Bear in mind I have been told that the Rapture is less than fifteen years away.

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

4 "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

7 "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

8 "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, and the door was shut.

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, open to us!'

12 "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Notice in verse 13 the *Son of Man* in "caps" identifies the bridegroom as Christ. It is generally believed by Bible students and expressed by some commentators that oil in this parable represents the Holy Spirit. While I agree with that premise, I wish to point out some additional things I have seen in the parable, some of which the Lord has pointed out to me and others that appear to me to be obvious.

Notice that all ten were virgins. That seems to indicate that all were saved (a work of the Holy Spirit) although the parable is not about salvation. In verses three and four we find that the wise had separate vessels for an additional supply of oil while the foolish did not. That additional supply of oil was for a specific purpose, which I will explain in my later comments. Then at midnight a cry was heard announcing the coming of the bridegroom. Notice it does not say that the announcement was the cry of the bridegroom. When the ten arose and trimmed their lamps, the foolish found their lamps going out and asked for oil from the wise. The wise refused, something unlike believers in the natural, and advised the foolish to buy their own extra oil. In their absence the five wise went into the wedding with the bridegroom and the door was shut. Afterward the foolish came seeking entrance and the bridegroom said, "I do not know you." Then comes the revelation that the Rapture will come suddenly without notice. This does not mean the foolish will not be saved. It means they had not made preparation for the bridegroom, as I shall explain.

The extra supply of oil (Holy Spirit) needed by each virgin portends each one *taking the time to hear the voice of the bridegroom*, through the Holy Spirit, with which He woos her into his bridal chamber.

The bridegroom did not say, "You do not know me," He said, "I do not know you." It appears obvious to me that the five foolish knew the bridegroom because they were virgins. And now you are thinking, "How could this be – how could it be that the foolish could know the bridegroom without the bridegroom knowing them?" Here is the answer I was given by the Lord. In the parable and in my previous comments thereon, I have followed the pattern of the parable and not capitalized *bridegroom* and the pronouns referring to him. Hereafter, however, since the bridegroom is Christ,

¹See 1 Corinthians 14:15.

²See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

I shall use capitals.

His rhema words

“The listening ear of the bride summons the Bridegroom out of His chamber. Here is how that is related to the parable of the ten virgins. It is through the Holy Spirit [light for the lamps] that the Bridegroom speaks to the listening ear of the bride. An abundance of oil means an *abundance of listening* – an abundance of rhema words – for therein is the Bridegroom summoned from His chamber *for the listening ear of the bride summons the Bridegroom from His chamber*.

“The purpose of this parable is not to teach salvation but intimacy with the Bridegroom in order to be taken by Him into His chamber.

“The ten expected to be chosen but only five had *taken the time* to develop intimacy with Him so as to *hear His voice*, His rhema word wooing of His bride. That’s why He said to the five foolish virgins, “I do not know you.” He knew the five wise because they had learned to listen to Him. *His knowing them* is the other half – the acceptance of His proposal that occurs when the bride learns to listen to the Bridegroom, for that and that alone woos Him from His bridal chamber.³

“He knows that *you know him* by what you say to Him. You know that *He knows you* by what He says to you. *Learn to listen!*

“Yes, My son, I am teaching you about the kingdom and yes, My son, I am teaching you about the Rapture. Only those who have summoned the Bridegroom from His chamber *with their listening ear* will be raptured. Preparation for the Rapture is going on *NOW* through you and others I am training. Since you are free of the Adamic sin-curse, this will take three or four years for you, but the time is at hand.

“You may teach/write that those who will be raptured will be those who have learned to hear My rhema words. These will be treasured words *in the bride’s diary and dowery*. *She needs to hear and record My words to her in preparation for the rapture wedding feast*. The reason for recording My words is because the time is short and on occasion My words will be so profuse, she will be unable to benefit from them unless they are written as I speak. My rhema words are My love letters to My bride. Preparation for the Rapture go hand in hand in reparation for the fruition of John 14:12 in the lives of those who will take the time to listen.

“My rhema words will also remove from My bride the Adamic sin-nature. This takes a while, but

when this is done, the three to four-year teaching will occur when I will call aside those with listening ears and teach them as I did the twelve in My personal ministry.

“The five foolish virgins did not have an adequate supply of the Holy Spirit, the oil for their lamps; hence their lamps went out. An adequate supply of the Holy Spirit is necessary to commune and communicate with the Bridegroom. They had enough of the Holy Spirit to *know the Lord*, but an inadequate supply to listen and to hear from the Bridegroom in order *for Him to know them*. He did not know them *because they had not taken the time to listen to Him*. The price you pay to get that supply of oil (The Holy Spirit) is what you give *in time* to learn to listen. Each one must make that payment for himself in full to hear the call of the Bridegroom.”

Editor’s Note: The Lord has said to me that every born-again believer has within him the ability to learn to listen for and to hear rhema words from Him about which I write and teach. As you take time to learn to listen and to hear rhema words from the Lord, it will change you life immeasurably. It is one of the greatest spiritual blessing I have ever discovered. There is no way to overrate or overstate the value of this blessing.

Here is an explanation especially for men:

The Bridegroom’s relationship with His bride is about intimacy. Because of the natural, aggressive, sexual nature of a man, he has a more difficult time in comprehending intimacy than a woman. If it is intimacy, lust will defile the relationship. If it is lust, not love, you will take advantage of the other party if you get the chance. A woman may more readily accept and understand the intimate Bridegroom relationship with Christ because she was born to be a bride. Not so with a man. He was born to be a bridegroom. Hence, the concept of Jesus, who came as a man to become both the Christ and the Bridegroom of His body the Church, may get “sticky” in the mind of a man who himself was born to be a bridegroom. ***The Bridegroom is not Jesus of Nazareth!*** *The Bridegroom is the resurrected Christ*, whose *body and sexuality was forever changed in the resurrection*. He is now a *spiritual* Bridegroom and our body will be *exactly like His* in the resurrection or the Rapture, whichever comes first. I understand these “feelings” because for a long time I could not conceive of my being a “bride” to Jesus of Nazareth. It was repulsive to me. It just wouldn’t compute in my mind. Then as I learned to hear rhema words from the Lord, over a period of time, those rhema words *literally changed me, imperceptibly at first*, so that I now

³See Psalm 19:4 (b), 5 (a); Joel 2:16 (b).

understand and clearly perceive the spiritual concept of my being a spiritual bride to a resurrected spiritual Christ, the Bridegroom. Rhema words from the Lord will change your concept of sexuality into a knowledge of spiritual intimacy otherwise unattainable. This is only one of many advantages of taking the time to hear rhema words from the Lord.

The Rapture Prophecy

“My son I see your need. I have heard your cry. And My response is not overdue but on the way. For I await the timing of My response even as I awaited the timing of My coming as a babe in a manger, an unwanted place for My birth. Even as there was no room in the inn, there is no room for Me in the hearts of many today and that is what grieves Me. I would that all of My servants would await My coming,⁴ even as you, for it is that expectant awaiting of My coming that will hasten it.

“So remain faithful. Continue to do My bidding one day at a time, one step at a time, for that more than anything else will usher into being My soon return.

“As My servants *expect* My soon return, they will be and will remain, expectantly waiting and watching for Me. And it is *those* whom I will call up to Me in the soon to come Rapture.⁵ So be not dismayed; things are on course. You are on course. There is enough time to do all the necessary things in preparation for My soon return.

“Remember to be watchfully expectant of My soon return. *For only those who are eager for My soon coming are chosen to be raptured.* The complacent, the slothful, the unexpectant will be left behind. That does not mean they will not be saved, it means they will remain until I call those who will receive Me unto

⁴The terms “My coming” and “My soon coming” are used synonymously eleven times in this prophecy. These terms do not refer to what is commonly called “the second coming of the Lord.” Instead, they refer to believers who “shall be caught up together” with Christ in the air, to join believers previously resurrected, in an event commonly called “the rapture of the Church.” See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

⁵The word **rapture**, which is not in the Bible, originated from the Latin Vulgate, a Latin translation of the Greek New Testament. In 1 Thessalonians 4:17, the English translation of the phrase “shall be caught up” was translated from the Greek word “harpazo,” which means to “catch away, seize upon with force” or to “snatch up.” The Latin translation of *harpazo* is *rapere* which is the root of the English term “rapture.” Latin translations were used throughout much of the history of the Western Church. As a result, a number of theological terms developed out of the Latin language. Trinity, millennium and imminence are other theological principles of similar origin that are not in English translations of the Bible but are clearly taught in the scripture.

Myself, My kingdom.⁶

“That is why you are to be diligently about what I have called you to do. As you obey My calling and election on your life, you are unknowingly preparing for and hastening My soon return. My son, I rejoice with you this morning. My peace I bestow on you and those whom you receive as guests today, thus says the Lord of hosts.

“Remember, be of good cheer. I have overcome the world. *As you remain watchfully expectant of My soon return to claim My own, that is the sign of My soon coming.*

“Those who are watchfully expecting My soon return are those who are being so qualified to serve Me – to prepare them to return with Me to rule and reign for a thousand years.

“Remember to be watchfully expectant of My soon return is the sign. Teach this My son for blessings to you and those whom you shall teach and those for whom you write.

“I am revealing to you secrets hidden from the foundation of the world, secrets that are now being made known to My servants, the prophets, of whom you are one.

“So tell these words to others. Proclaim it as My truth to a weary, hungry, lost and indifferent world. A world I long to clasp unto My bosom in love, but this can only be done as they first receive Me – My Holy Spirit within to first atone for sin. For it is only then that I can embrace them – have communion – fellowship with them, for if I should clasp them to Me now, the power and glory of My presence would destroy them, for to them I would be a consuming fire. This is why the earth will need to be cleansed by fire – My consuming fire – to be cleansed and readied for the perfect eternal state. For only as I cleanse that which has been contaminated by sin is the earth prepared in its eternal state.⁷ The cleansing will be a cleansing of sin by the fire of My presence. This is the longing of My heart. So

⁶The term “My kingdom” in this prophetic word refers to the millennial reign of Christ when He will triumphantly return to earth with His bride (those raptured) to rule and reign on the throne of David from Jerusalem, the then capitol city of the world and the center of the millennial earth. See Isaiah 2:2-4; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 2:10.

⁷The Bible teaches that the sin-polluted earth will be cleansed by fire according to 2 Peter 3:10-12: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.” This is the cleansing of the earth in preparation for the final eternal state.

be of good cheer today. My peace I give to you – I bestow upon you and your guests on this Christmas Day. Enjoy My day for I am with you as you do so, says the Lord.

“My son warn those who are complacent. Warn those who take commitment to Me carelessly, inattentively. Warn them to turn to Me in total commitment so I may give them My covenant response. Let your warning be given in love. For there will be believers in Me who think not concerning the seriousness of their covenant with Me. For My covenant is unto their death, if required, or it is not covenant. That is why I [Jesus] said, “Let the dead bury the dead.”⁸ That is why some did not follow Me seriously – they had other things to attend to – worldly things to attend to – and so they missed My call.

“It was expedient that I leave first so My Holy Spirit could be sent. It is expedient now that My followers be about My Father’s call and election on their life for that will allow them entry into the blessed communion with Me in preparation to return, to rule and reign with Me. To those who will be caught up with Me, the time will be spent in preparation for rule. Assignments will be given, training will be done by the heavenly hosts in preparation to rule and reign with Me. As the raptured return with Me, each will be trained for his assignment and will assume his/her post for the Millennium. That will be a glorious time for Me and for those chosen to come with Me for only the pure in heart will be chosen.

“So continue to be faithful. Say, teach, write what I say to you. Warn those who are not saved. Admonish those who take their commitment to Me lightly, for there is a price to pay in commitment that some do not wish to pay. To those who hear, it will be the greatest investment they can make – an investment that will bring exponential returns – beyond their fondest dreams.

“I will give you revelation as you ask as My covenant⁹ partner – I have no other choice. I must respond to covenant needs even as do you. But covenant partners who understand and take covenant seriously are

⁸See Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:60.

⁹The word “covenant” as used in this prophecy is translated from the Hebrew word, **bryith**, Strong’s #1285 definition is, “A compact made by passing between two pieces of flesh – confederacy - league.” The practice of “cutting a blood covenant” is related to what Jesus did in instituting the Lord’s Supper when He said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood.” An understanding of the relationship between what Jesus said and cutting a blood covenant is necessary to an understanding of the word “covenant” as used in this prophecy.

the most blessed ones.

“My son I am obligated to respond to My covenant partners – even as they are obligated to respond to Me. For that is covenant. But covenant obligations are blessings to both. For in covenant response there is blessing for both parties. That is the purpose of covenant – blessings for both parties. Tell this to My people. Proclaim to them My warning and My blessing that they may be set free, thus says the Lord God to you today, the Lord of hosts says to you. Amen.

“There will be believers who are left behind [at the rapture] who are not watchfully, expectantly doing what God has called them to do. Being born again is no guarantee of being raptured. Bring your tithes into My storehouse, says the Lord, tithes of your time, your money, your talents and your gifts. For only as you do so may I reach out and touch them, take them, bless them and return them to you exponentially blessed. For that is My desire for you. That is My call on all to respond to the blessings of My storehouse of treasures. For My storehouse is full to overflowing awaiting My response to your requests. Ask boldly, seek fruitfully, knock expectantly so as to receive in abundance, says the Lord.

“My son I am mindful of your requests and they will come as you are able to receive them, thus says the Lord.”

There are some somber words and a warning in this prophecy concerning those who do not take their commitment to the Lord seriously. But the “flip side” of the somber words and the warning is this: You will have more fun serving the Lord in total commitment than anything you have ever done. I am living in the midst of that blessing and invite you to join me.

Holiday Greetings

May God’s abundance arrest you – overtake you¹⁰ in the coming Holiday Season.

Blessings to you and your family

Merry Christmas

From Jim & Dale Ash

¹⁰See Deuteronomy 28:2.