Understanding the book of Revelation

Fall 2017 | Session #2

1. Introduction:

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* 1. Jesus And The Seven Churches —> Chapters 1–3.
     1. Chapter 1: 9––20**:** I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, 11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." 12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lamp stands, 13 and among the lamp stands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. 19 Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lamp stands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands are the seven churches.”
     2. John’s Identification, Location and Occasion.
        1. Identification: He is intimately connected to them. He is a brother (same father) and a companion on the same path with them –– in suffering, in the Kingdom, and in patient endurance.
        2. Location: On Patmos (A Greek Island off the coast of Turkey).
        3. Occasion It was on the Lord’s Day.[[1]](#footnote-2) Clearly refers to Sunday, which had became the Christian’s celebration day of the resurrection and the new life in Jesus.
     3.  John’s Experience on the Lord’s Day? –– “In the Spirit”
        1. **“In the Spirit” is repeated four times in the Revelation** (See 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10). John uses this phrase to denote an experiential state induced by the Spirit that moved him from an every day walking in the Spirit, to a more unusual experiential place of hearing and seeing the Word Of The Lord through a Spirit stimulated vision.
        2. Visions and dreams inspired by the Spirit are found sprinkled throughout the OT as well as in the NT.
        3. **NOTE THAT:** in this Spirit induced state, John does not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***or his awareness of where he is.*** He knows who he is, what he is hearing and seeing, as well as whether he is in heaven, or on the earth.
        4. What John Heard: “A voice like a loud trumpet.” (Lots of trumpets in Revelation).
        5. What John Sees: The voice causes John to turn to see whose voice was speaking and he sees “*seven golden lamp stands and one like a son of man walking amongst them.*” From here forward John describes in a dynamic way who Jesus is and what Jesus is doing in human history.

—> This type of Spirit caused vision is called a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

* 1. Who Is Jesus? A Plethora of Titles, Similes, & Deeds –– A Mini\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
     1. (1:5) He is, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The theme of giving faithful witness (testimony) to God’s word (will. purpose) runs all through Revelation, echoing the OT and Jesus’ emphasis on servants being those who remain loyal to being witnesses to the words of God.
     2. (1:5, 18) He is, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades: Speaks of Jesus victory and authority (holding the keys) over death and the promise of that those who place their faith (trusting loyalty) in him, “even though they may die, yet they will live.”[[2]](#footnote-3)
     3. (1:5) He is, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Neither Nero or Domition is the ultimate and true lord (kyerios) over all –– (Rev. 11:4 and 17:14).
     4. (1:5) He is the, the one who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood: Jesus is the rescuer of humanity, “Look, the lamb of God who takes away the sin’s of the world.”[[3]](#footnote-4)
     5. He is, The one who has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God: Jesus is the restorer of our foundational relationship to God, servants to God & humanity.
     6. John sees one who is “like the son of man” This phrase is drawn from Daniel 7:13-14. It is used close to 80 times to describe Jesus, most often from his own lips. (Mt. 8:20; 9:6; 12:8; 26:24).

—> In the Old Testament the word is used as a title to describe the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel who are clearly mere men chosen by God to serve Him.”

**But in** **Daniel 7:13-14** the figure who is like a son of man is clearly something beyond merely being a human prophetic servant of God. –– *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man comingwith the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.****14****He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdomis one that will never be destroyed.”*

* + - 1. He is clothed in a floor length “robe” with a “gold sash.” A description of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dress and is found in (Dan 10:5) regarding the “son of man.” Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
      2. His “ head and hair are like wool, white as snow:” Image of Purity in Isaiah 1:18 and in Daniel 7:9 the same description is used regarding the *Ancient of Days* (literally “before days were”) who is God the Almighty.
      3. His eyes were like blazing fire” –– In (Dan10:6) it is a description of the “son of man.” Fire is often used to speak of something that is both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

–– Peterson says, “He doesn’t look at us he looks into us.”[[4]](#footnote-5)

* + - 1. His feet were like glowing bronze. A striking contrast to the vision of Nebuchadnezzar King of the Babylonian Empire. In the Kings vision the feet of the great image has feet of bronze mixed with clay (unstable) and doomed to fail (See Dan. 2:33 – 45).
      2.  His voice is like the “sound of rushing waters” (Awesome, Exhilarating, Fearsome) (Eze. 43:2) and his face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”[[5]](#footnote-6) John’s description speaks of the son of man’s glory, as well as the warm attention he directs towards his servants. Numbers 6:24–26 records one of the great blessings of the OT: “The Lord bless you and keep you; **25**the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; **26**the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”
      3. Out of his mouth came a two edged sword. –– The sword was a the tool of a warrior for conquering his enemy. It also was uses metaphorically to speak of God’s word, as well as God’s judgment. (Isaiah 11:4; 27:1; 49:2 Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrew 4:12)
      4.  The 7 lamps that the “Son Of Man” walks among? —> The Churches are Jesus’ communities on earth they are each to be light bearers [revelators/witnesses] in the surrounding world and Jesus the Lord is with them.

1. The Letters To The Seven Churches.
   1. You’ve Got Mail: On Mail Routes & Angels
   2. Each letter is a highly structured pastoral/prophetic letter, sent to “the angel of the church at …”
      1. Angel? Two Options – or perhaps both.
         1. (See 1Corinthians 11:10 & 1Tim 5:21)
   3. General Structure and Content of the Letters.
      1. In each letter Jesus announces his personal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his followers lives. –– (he walks amongst the lamp-stands).
      2. Each letter **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on some aspect of the earlier descriptions of Jesus from chapter 1.
      3. In each letter the reader is called on to grasp what it means to walk in true Kingdom discipleship (what it means to be a Christian) in their day-to-day world.
      4. In each letter Jesus identifies **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of a given church. He knows them intimately! Use of the **“I know…”** underlines this thought of intimacy. Each letter is a vivid example of speaking or writing prophetically. There are words of encouragement, comfort, and correction throughout these letters.
         1. Six are commended for various positive “deeds” only Laodicea is not!
         2. Five are told vigorously to repent for various reasons by the Lord, only Smyrna & Philadelphia are not!
      5. Jesus calls for all the readers to “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (image of warfare and conquering) the powers of the kingdom of darkness. What does it mean to be an over-comer; a conqueror; to be victorious? The rest of the book shows vividly the answer to that question for all readers in every situation.
      6. All are given great **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** if they overcome and remain faithful witnesses. Clearly Jesus thinks these things promised are like the treasure or a pearl of immeasurable value in the gospel parables. –– These are things worth selling out completely for, in order to posses the treasure or the pearl.[[6]](#footnote-7)
      7. Jesus alludes to the historical or economic character of each city in his affirmations and in his rebukes.
         1. TEXT: Ephesus: 2:1“To the angelof the church in Ephesuswrite: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right handand walks among the seven golden lamp stands. **2**I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. **3**You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**4** Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5**Consider how far you have fallen! Repentand do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place. **6**But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Ephesus: Was the 1st city of Asia Minor, a great sea port and 1st in its ***utter devotion*** to Rome. —> Jesus says to the church, “ you have ***left your first love”.***

* + - 1. Smyrna text: **8**“To the angel of the church in Smyrnawrite: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. **9**I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not,but are a synagogue of Satan.**10**Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you,and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. ––**11**Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Smyrna: Was a great and deeply loyal city to Rome with a large Jewish community. Jesus speaks of the “slander from those who call themselves Jews and are not.” (See Jeremiah 9:24-26, Romans 2:28-29) He tells the church … “show yourself loyal to death and I will give you a crown of life.”

* + - 1.  Pergamum Text: **12**“To the angel of the church in Pergamumwrite: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.**13**I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. –– **14**Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam,who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.**15**Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16**Repenttherefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ––**17**Whoever has ears, let them hearwhat the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious,I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new namewritten on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Pergamum: Was the capital city of the Roman province of Asia. Famous for its culture and library. The word parchment is derived from Pergamum.

—> Pergamum a great religious center but more than that it was the overseeing center for the practice of Caesar worship. —> Jesus speaks of knowing where this church lived … ***“where Satan has his throne.”***

***—>*** Jesus identifies himself as the *one with a two-edged sword,* which likely alludes to the reality of Pergamum’s governor had the “right of the sword.” A power that had apparently used on a brother named Antipas.

—> The letter reminds the readers that it is Jesus himself who ultimately stands in judgment with the power of eternal life and death in a person’s life.

* + - 1. Thyatira Text: **18**“To the angel of the church in Thyatirawrite: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19**I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. –– **20**Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. **21**I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. **22**So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. **23**I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. –– **24**Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, ‘I will not impose any other burden on you, **25**except to hold on to what you have until I come. ––**26**To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— **27**that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’— just as I have received authority from my Father. **28**I will also give that one the morning star. **29**Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Thyatira: Is the longest of the letters to the least important of the 7 cities, but still a great commercial center in woolen goods.

—> The city was full of trade guilds, with their feasts and worship of Greco-Roman gods being part of the economic and social tapestry for anyone belonging to a given trade.

—> Jesus speaks of a woman he calls Jezebel whose “teaching causes my servants to commit fornication and to eat meat offered to idols.” (Relationship of trade guilds, to meat offered to idols).

* + - 1.  Sardis Text: 3“To the angelof the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **2**Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. **3**Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what timeI will come to you. –– **4**Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. **5**The one who is victoriouswill, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. **6**Whoever has ears, let them hearwhat the Spirit says to the churches.

Sardis: Had a great past glory but was presently in decay.

—> Built on a 1500-ft. high rock, which made it seemingly impregnable. Yet the city was conquered two or three times because the city leaders felt so secure that they failed to post a night watch on the city walls.

—> Jesus says to his community in Sardis, “I know your reputation (past glories) but you are dead, in a state of decay. He tells them to “wake up” or he will come as a thief, “and you will not know at what time I come to you.”

The whole book of Revelation is a prophetic pastoral ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*!**

**—>** Echoing Jesus repeated warning about the end coming like a thief in the night and the exhortations to “watch” and to be prepared. (See texts at the end of this outline.)

* + - 1. Philadelphia Text: **7**“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holyand true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. **8**I know your deeds.See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.**9**I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not,but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. **10**Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. **11**I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.**12**The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. **13**Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Philadelphia Was built with the purpose to be ––a missionary city for Greek culture and its language.

—> It suffered regularly from earthquakes that forced the people to go out of the city.

—> After one such devastation Caesar Tiberius rebuilt the city and out of appreciation the city changed its name. It’s new name being Neocaeceria [The new city of Caesar].

—> Jesus writes about the churches “open door” as missionaries of the Kingdom and promises the over-comers that they will be pillars in an unmovable temple and that they will no longer go out.

—> Jesus tells the over-comer that he/she will have a new name written by Christ on him/her… the new name of my God and the city of my God and my new name.

—> Jesus states that he “holds the key of David.” The one who holds the keys in the ancient world is the one who is entrusted with the authority over a thing or place. (See Isaiah 22:22) The ‘key of David’ reveals who has been given authority or King David’s domain. It was the Messiah or Christ that was given this authority and promise in both the OT and the NT (See Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:32).

* + - 1. Laodicea Text: **14**“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.**15**I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! **16**So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. **17**You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked **18**I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. –– **19**Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. **20**Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. –– **21**To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. **22**Whoever has ears, let them hear( what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Laodicea was built on a great commercial road. Was know as a great financial center, a clothing center and a medical center, especially for its eye and ear salves.

—> The city was destroyed, but did not request any financial assistance (needing nothing) from Rome to rebuild.

—> The city did not have its own immediate water supply, but came via the acquaducts. Two other cities were known for their water. Hieropolis had hot mineral springs that tasted terrible but were healing. And Collasee was the source for cold refreshing water. –– But by the time water was transported to Laodicea via the Roman aquaducts, it would have been neither hot (healing) nor cold (refreshing), but lukewarm.

—> Romans were reported to have drunk lukewarm water in order to make themselves sick so they could binge more at their numerous gluttonous feasts.

—> Jesus calls the Laodicean community lukewarm, stating they are neither hot nor cold. He states that they should be either hot or cold (healing or refreshing and that their spiritual attitudes and action, if unrepented of, will make him spew them out of his mouth. —> Jesus writes of their perception of being rich and needing nothing. —> He speaks of their blindness and says that he is knocking and if they can hear him and if they open up to him he will come in and join them in the fellowship meal.

—> They, [not having need of anything] have apparently even put him on the outside of their sense of personal need for a true relationship. —> He tells them to buy real clothes most likely in contrast to their consumption of material things.

—> He offers intimate fellowship and to the over-comer the “right to sit and share his very throne.”

* 1. The 7 Letters Equated With The Sweep Of History?
     1. Each letter is seen as a description of the nature of the church over a historic period of time. The time from the life/death/resurrection of Jesus is cut into 7 periods. Those who attempt to see the letters this way are modern 20th Ct. interpreters who believe we are now in the Laodicean period (the end of the *End Times).*
     2. Problem With This Approach? It would mean that all churches would be Laodicean in nature throughout the world. This is simply not the case. Much of the persecuted church may be much more like the suffering but faithful churches of Asia.
     3. It would mean that we would not read all the letters as being to all the churches in all pe D.
  2. A Personal “Take-a-way!”

*One benefit of understanding the 7 letters is the encouragement there is for us to stand in solidarity with all the church in the world (the persecuted church and the seduced and materialistic church, etc.) and to gaining wisdom from the strengths and failures of any other church in the world, at any given time.*

Jesus On Being Alert, Attentive, and Active

Mt. 7:15 **“Watch out for false prophets.** They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

Mark 13:32–37 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33**Be on guard! Be alert!** You do not know when that time will come.34It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servantsin charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly – do not let him find you sleeping. 37**What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”**

Mt. 24:3As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your comingand of the end of the age?” **4**Jesus answered: “**Watch out** **that no one deceives you**. **5**For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.

Mt. 24:36–51“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37**As it was in the days of Noah. so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; **39**and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40**Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. **41** Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.**43**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming,he **would have kept watch** and would not have let his house be broken into.**44**So **you also must be ready**,because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant,whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? **46**It will be **good for that servant whose master finds him doing so** when he returns.**47** Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.**48**But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘**My master is staying away a long time**,’ **49**and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.**50**The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **51**He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mt. 25:1–“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be liketen virgins who took their lampsand went out to meet the bridegroom.**2**Five of them were foolish and five were wise.**3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4**The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **5**The 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. **8**The 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. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’**12**“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’**13**“**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour**.”

1. Some writers suggest it could also be a type of word play alluding back to the OT prophetic word that the Lord would act in the future to bring judgment (outworking of justice) to the world. At times the OT calls this event of judgment “the day of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2: 12-18; 13: 9; Jeremiah 46: 10; Joel 1: 15; Amos 5:18–20; 2 Peter 3:1–13). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Jesus speaking to the sister of Lazarus in John 11:25 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. John the baptizer’s testimony regarding Jesus in John 1:29 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Reversed Thunder, by Eugene Peterson [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. (Daniel 10:5-6)–– I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen,with a belt of fine goldfrom Uphaz around his waist. **6**His body was like topaz, his face like lightning,his eyes like flaming torches,his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voicelike the sound of a multitude. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Mt. 13:44–46 Jesus told his disciples:“The kingdom of heaven is liketreasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. **45**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is likea merchant looking for fine pearls. **46**When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)