

# The Refreshing Times Jan 2021

## Are We Prepared?

Most theologians would agree that we are in the last days. While my specialty is not eschatology, I think we could all agree that the signs of the times are very clear. We see wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes in various places, famine, plagues and moral decay. In the midst of this what is the command of our Lord Jesus.?

I believe Jesus gave us some clear guidelines to living in the end times. In the book of Acts, we see one clue to the heart of Jesus concerning the timing of things.

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, will You at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power. But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:6-8 KJV

There are two significant parables that were written in the Gospel of Matthew. I believe they are also clues to end time living. It is interesting to note that neither of them state anything about crawling into a bunker or storing up freeze-dried food. While doing those things is not sin, we must search our hearts to see if the Holy Spirit is truly leading us that way. If we are motivated by fear then I think we need to check again and rethink our focus.

"Fear is sin, for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23

I believe the times we are living in are dangerous. However, they are no more dangerous than the times of Daniel, Joseph, the Apostles or Jesus.

While Joseph was in Egypt, he was in a foreign environment yet God prospered him. He increased as did the whole nation of Israel. Eventually they came into a period of slavery. However, when they were delivered, they left without a feeble one among them and they were packed with silver and gold.

"He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes." Psa 105:37

Daniel lived in a sad time in the history of Israel. Jeremiah the prophet said that if they would go to Babylon they would be safe. He told them to

pray for Babylon. He told them that Babylon's prosperity would be their prosperity. He told them to build homes and flourish even in the midst of a strange land.

Upcoming  
Events

New Year  
Consecration  
Month!

Jan 3rd

Communion

And

Divine Health

Jan 10th

Communion and

Vision Sunday

Jan 17th

Communion and

Relationship

Sunday

Jan 24th

Communion and

Holy Spirit And

Fire Sunday

Jan 31st

Communion and

Testimony

Sunday

Wednesdays

Midweek Manna

via Zoom. 7pm

Jan 27th

Guest Minister

TBA

Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. Jer 29:5-7

My point in all this is, that while the antichrist may be alive and well right now, the spirit of the antichrist has always been here since Jesus has come. The antichrist spirit works tirelessly at wearying the saints, discouraging their faith and countering the kingdom of God. Most significantly, it wants to make sure that Christians never prosper. If Christians prosper, Christians will do good with their money. When evil men prosper they will do evil with their money. So common sense would say prosper your children Lord or Hosanna!! Hosanna means send now prosperity. As we said before, money is amoral. Money has no personality. Money takes on the personality of the holder. We see in the life of Joseph and Daniel that though they were in strange lands that worshiped foreign gods, they prospered in wisdom, knowledge and eventually ruled the land!

Now let's look at the two parables Jesus spoke concerning the end times.

When the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 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.' 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. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (Matthew 25:1-15) ESV

Our first parable has to do with 10 virgins. There were five wise virgins and five foolish virgins. When the bridegroom came, the five wise virgins had their oil lamps trimmed and were ready to meet the bridegroom. The five foolish virgins had no oil in their lamps and they were not prepared to meet the bridegroom (Jesus) at His coming. So the first parable speaks clearly to us that it's so important to be prepared, to be full of the Holy Spirit as Ephesians tells us. Oil is a typology, referring to the New Testament or the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We are not to be drunk with wine, we are to be filled with the Spirit. As Satan works tirelessly to weary the church, it is of utmost importance to...

build ourselves up in our most holy faith praying in the Holy Ghost. (Jude 20) ESV

If you don't know what that is, please take time to study the power of the prayer language. This study's intention is not to study the purpose of the prayer language. It would be amiss though, not to mention it. The prayer language provides continuous flow of worship, thanksgiving and prayer to our Heavenly Father. Thanksgiving and worship are the seedbed for faith. If we are going to overcome in this world it will be by faith. The prayer language is a key to staying in faith.

Our second parable speaks of the law of use.

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.' For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 25:14-30) ESV

In this parable we see three people. One with five talents, another with two talents and another with one talent. Each one was told to multiply their gifts and abilities until the master came back. The first one with the five talents doubled his talent. The one with two did the same. The man with one talent was fearful and did not invest. The idea behind this

parable is to occupy until Jesus returns. We are not to crawl under a rock, be led by fear and driven by doubt. We are to make the most of everything that Jesus has given us and increase it. Unfortunately, some of us preachers preach such fear concerning the end times. This blocks creativity and innovation. After a while, it will create a belief that the world and the devil are too strong to contend with. Instead we should say God owns it all. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1) The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. (Lord Sabaoth) (Hag 2:8) greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4) ESV  
In summary, there are two things that I recommend in preparation for the end times: Number one is, stay full of the Holy Spirit. Continue to be grateful and thankful and use the wonderful prayer language. Number two: use whatever talent God has given you and increase it. So let's be prepared going forward into the next decades with faith and confidence. If we stay filled with the Holy Ghost and we use what God is given us we will be on the increase regardless of the day and age that we are in. We must remember that the earth is the Lord's (Psalm 24:1). The earth is not the devil's! So press on, increase and enjoy all the good things that God has given you.  
the silver and gold is mine says the Lord (Haggai 2:8) ESV

May your new year be crowned with abundance and your God guided path be overflowing in blessings!

Happy New Year to All! Pastors John and Laurie Curcio

Psa 65:11 NLT

"You crown the year with a bountiful harvest;  
even the hard pathways overflow with abundance."

Oba 1:15

"For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near;  
As you have done, it shall be done to you;  
Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.

God's very best to you all,

Pastors John and Laurie