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# The Lord God's Ekklesia

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## Part 9 – The Faithful, Watchful, and Prepared Bride

EKKLESIA  
THE CALLED OUT ONES

Matthew 25:1-13

# **Matthew 25:1 NLT**

**“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.**

# Matthew 25:2

Five of them were foolish, and  
five were wise.

# Matthew 25:3

The five who were foolish didn't  
take enough olive oil for their  
lamps,

# Matthew 25:4

but the other five were wise  
enough to take along extra oil.

# **Matthew 25:5**

**When the bridegroom was  
delayed, they all became drowsy  
and fell asleep.**

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**At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!'**

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All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps.



## **Matthew 25:8**

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**But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’**

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**But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked.**

# **Matthew 25:11**

**Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’**

# Matthew 25:12

**But he called back, 'Believe me, I  
don't know you!'**

# Matthew 25:13

**So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.**

The Faithful, Watchful and Prepared Bride

# EKKLESIA

THE CALLED OUT ONES

# Ancient Jewish Betrothal

- The Marriage Covenant
- The Cup of Wine
- The Bride Price is Paid
- The Departure
- The Waiting
- The Return
- The Bridal Chamber
- The Wedding Feast



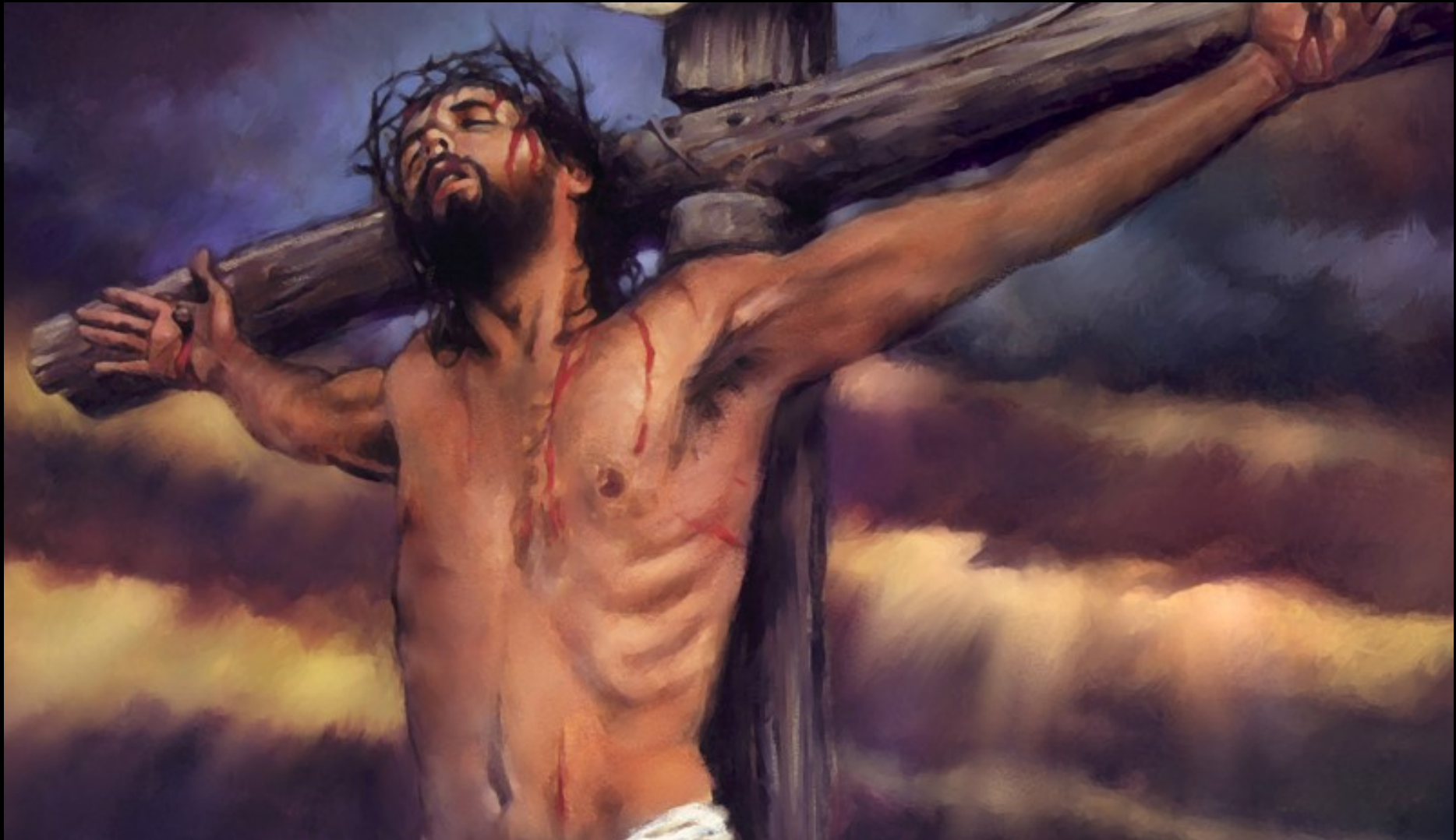
## A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing on a document. The left hand holds a black pen, and the right hand rests on the paper, adorned with a diamond ring. The document features a decorative border with colorful floral and geometric patterns. The text on the page is handwritten in cursive, mentioning "December 31st" and "the community of Israel".

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# The Cup of Wine



# The Bride Price is Paid



# The Departure



# The Waiting



The  
*Bride*  
of CHRIST

*Preparing for  
His return*



# The Return

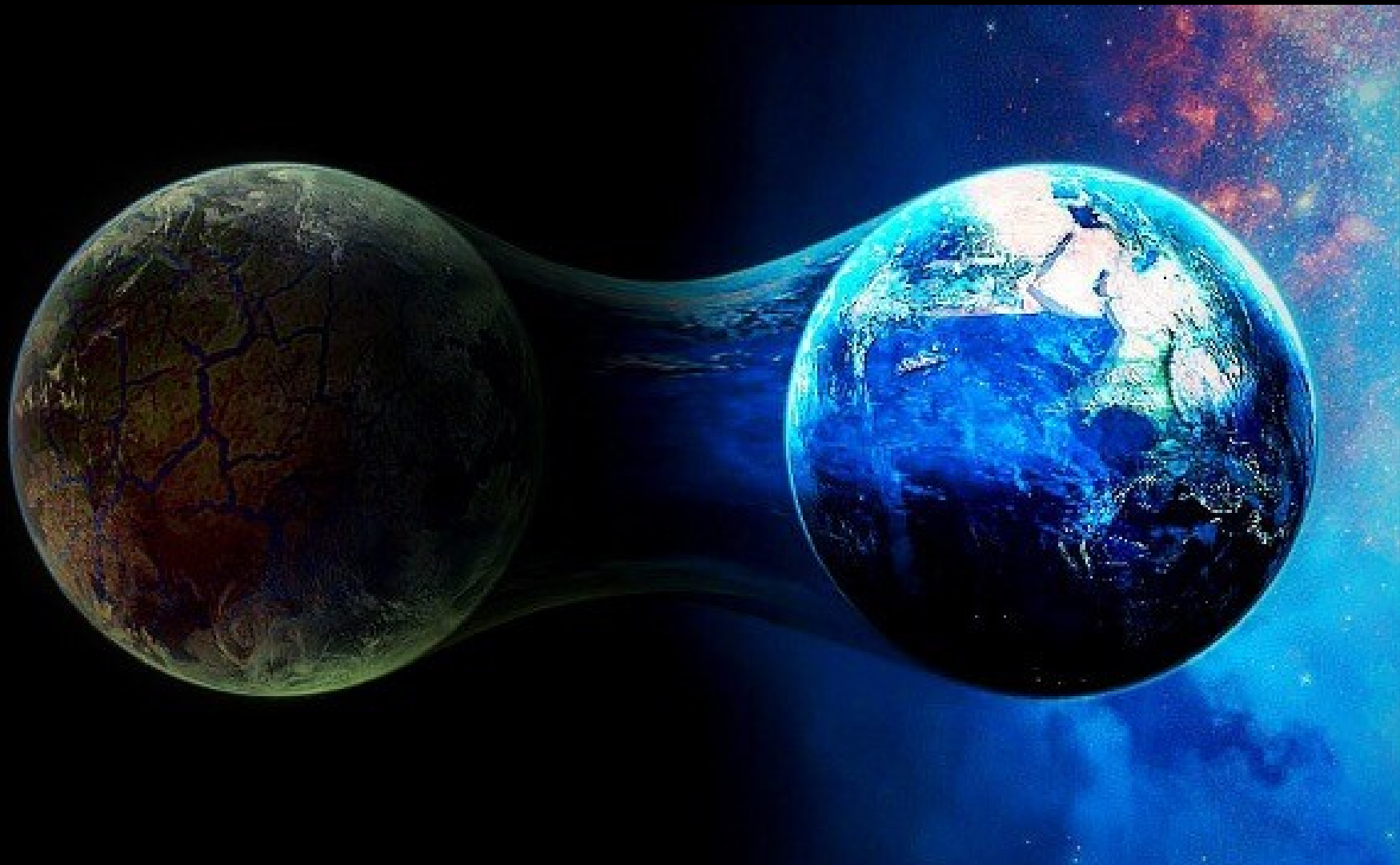


# The Bridal Chamber





# The Wedding Feast





# The Context of the Passage

# Matthew 24:1

**As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings.**

## **Matthew 24:2**

**But he responded, “Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”**

# **Matthew 24:3**

**Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”**

## **Matthew 24:4-5**

**Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many.**

# Matthew 24:6

**And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately.**

# **Matthew 24:7**

**Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world.**

# Matthew 24:8

**But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.**



# Matthew 24:9

Then you will be arrested,  
persecuted, and killed. You will be  
hated all over the world because  
you are my followers.

# **Matthew 24:10**

**And many will turn away from me  
and betray and hate each other.**

# **Matthew 24:11**

**And many false prophets will  
appear and will deceive many  
people.**

# **Matthew 24:12**

**Sin will be rampant everywhere,  
and the love of many will grow  
cold.**

# Matthew 24:13

**But the one who endures to the  
end will be saved.**

# **Matthew 24:14**

**And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.**

# **Matthew 24:15**

**The day is coming when you will  
see what Daniel the prophet  
spoke about—the sacrilegious  
object that causes desecration  
standing in the Holy Place.”  
(Reader, pay attention!)**

# Matthew 24:16

**Then those in Judea must flee to  
the hills.**



# Matthew 24:17

**A person out on the deck of a roof  
must not go down into the house  
to pack.**

# **Matthew 24:18**

**A person out in the field must not  
return even to get a coat.**

# **Matthew 24:19**

**How terrible it will be for  
pregnant women and for nursing  
mothers in those days.**

# Matthew 24:20

**And pray that your flight will not  
be in winter or on the Sabbath.**

# **Matthew 24:21**

**For there will be greater anguish  
than at any time since the world  
began. And it will never be so  
great again.**

# **Matthew 24:22**

**In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God's chosen ones.**

# Matthew 24:23

Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it.

# **Matthew 24:24**

**For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.**



# Matthew 24:25

See, I have warned you about this  
ahead of time.

# **Matthew 24:26**

**So if someone tells you, 'Look, the  
Messiah is out in the desert,'  
don't bother to go and look. Or,  
'Look, he is hiding here,' don't  
believe it!**

# **Matthew 24:27**

**For as the lightning flashes in the east and shines to the west, so it will be when the Son of Man comes.**

# **Matthew 24:28**

**Just as the gathering of vultures  
shows there is a carcass nearby,  
so these signs indicate that the  
end is near.**

## **Matthew 24:29**

**“Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.**

## **Matthew 24:30a**

**And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth.**

# **Matthew 24:30b**

**And they will see the Son of Man  
coming on the clouds of heaven  
with power and great glory.**

# Matthew 24:31

And he will send out his angels  
with the mighty blast of a  
trumpet, and they will gather his  
chosen ones from all over the  
world—from the farthest ends of  
the earth and heaven.



# **Matthew 24:32**

**Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near.**

# **Matthew 24:33**

**In the same way, when you see all these things, you can know his return is very near, right at the door.**

# Matthew 24:34

I tell you the truth, this age will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.

# **Matthew 24:35**

**Heaven and earth will disappear,  
but my words will never  
disappear.**

# **Matthew 24:36**

**However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.**

# **Matthew 24:37**

**When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day.**

# **Matthew 24:38**

**In those days before the flood,  
the people were enjoying  
banquets and parties and  
weddings right up to the time  
Noah entered his boat.**

# **Matthew 24:39**

**People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.**



# Matthew 24:40

Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left.

# Matthew 24:41

Two women will be grinding flour  
at the mill; one will be taken, the  
other left.

# Matthew 24:42

**So you, too, must keep watch! For  
you don't know what day your  
Lord is coming.**

# **Matthew 24:43**

**Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into.**

# **Matthew 24:44**

**You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.**

# Matthew 24:45

**A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them.**

# Matthew 24:46

If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.

# Matthew 24:47

**I tell you the truth, the master  
will put that servant in charge of  
all he owns.**



# **Matthew 24:48**

**But what if the servant is evil and  
thinks, 'My master won't be back  
for a while,'**

# Matthew 24:49

and he begins beating the other  
servants, partying, and getting  
drunk?

# Matthew 24:50

The master will return  
unannounced and unexpected,

# **Matthew 24:51**

**and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

# **Matthew 25:1**

**Then the Kingdom of Heaven will  
be like ten bridesmaids who took  
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of my return.**

# Principle #1

**A study of biblical prophecy and eschatology (the End Times) in their proper context is beneficial because they are purposed to motivate us towards godly living, to promote intentional outreach, and to clarify sound doctrine.**

# Principle #2

**When it comes to being a genuine, faithful, and Holy Spirit led follower of Christ, it is an either-or proposition.**

# Either-Or

- Noah and his family vs the people of his generation.
- Two men in the field.
- Two women at the mill.
- The two homeowners.
- The faithful and wise servant vs the evil servant.
- The wise vs foolish bridesmaids

# Principle #3

**Faithful, watchful, and prepared disciples of Christ understand that they are to live as though Jesus is coming back today but at the same time they are to plan as though He will not return in their lifetime.**

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# Principle #4

**Despite the many warnings, promises, and prophecies; Christ's return will be sudden and unexpected, so it will lead to judgment for the unbelieving and the ungodly.**

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## **Matthew 25:9**

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# Principle #5

**If the way you are currently living your life testifies that you are a professing Christian hypocrite, a backslider, a lazy Christian, or a non-Christian; it is not too late to change your ways.**



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**But he called back, 'Believe me, I  
don't know you!'**

# Principle #6

**We are truly ready for the Lord's return when our relationships with God and others are what they should be.**

# **Matthew 7:21**

**“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.**

# Matthew 7:22

On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'

# **Matthew 7:23**

**But I will reply, 'I never knew you.  
Get away from me, you who  
break God's laws.'**

# **Matthew 25:31**

**“But when the Son of Man comes  
in his glory, and all the angels  
with him, then he will sit upon his  
glorious throne.**



# **Matthew 25:32**

**All the nations will be gathered in  
his presence, and he will separate  
the people as a shepherd  
separates the sheep from the  
goats.**

# **Matthew 25:33**

**He will place the sheep at his right  
hand and the goats at his left.**

# **Matthew 25:34**

**Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.'**

# Matthew 25:35

**For I was hungry, and you fed me.  
I was thirsty, and you gave me a  
drink. I was a stranger, and you  
invited me into your home.**

# Matthew 25:36

I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

# Matthew 25:37

Then these righteous ones will  
reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see  
you hungry and feed you? Or  
thirsty and give you something to  
drink?

# Matthew 25:38

Or a stranger and show you  
hospitality? Or naked and give  
you clothing?

# Matthew 25:39

**When did we ever see you sick or  
in prison and visit you?’**



# Matthew 25:40

**And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'**

# **Matthew 25:41**

**Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'**

# Matthew 25:42

For I was hungry, and you didn't  
feed me. I was thirsty, and you  
didn't give me a drink.

# Matthew 25:43

**I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'**

# Matthew 25:44

Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?'

## **Matthew 25:45**

**And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'**

# Matthew 25:46

**And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”**

# Principle #7

**There are many huge, beautiful churches that exist where the Holy Spirit is not present and where the Word of God is not preached. They are just empty lamps with no oil.**



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