

Heaven Touched Earth

Matthew 25:1-13

Be Wise! Be Ready!

RETURN OF THE INCARNATION - WEEK #4

1MOSAIC CHURCH

JANUARY 4, 2026

The Return of the Incarnation

- Definition:
 - *The Second Coming of Christ is the **sudden, personal, visible, bodily** return of Christ **from Heaven to Earth.***
– Dr. Wayne Grudem
- There are 44 classic Scriptures on Christ's Second Coming.
 - Every NT Author mentions Jesus' return.

NIV **Acts 1:9-11** After he [Jesus] said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**"

The Return of the Incarnation

“The writers of the New Testament were a bruised and battered bunch. This is why they wrote so much about heaven. The hope of heaven stoked fire in their bones, and their writings were laced with constant references to the Second Coming of Christ, to a time when their Savior would restore all things and complete the kingdom. Continually they were praying, “Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!” They were eagerly waiting for Jesus Christ to be revealed. These suffering saints were not trying to escape the painful realities of earth; they gladly endured their hardships. They were able to be happy because they knew heaven would reveal the earthshaking significance behind each tear and affliction. They likened themselves to soldiers poised on the watchtower, workers hoeing for the harvest, athletes straining toward the finish line, and virgins waiting wide-eyed in the night, lamps trimmed, hearts afire, and scanning the horizon for the arrival of their beloved. For New Testament writers who suffered – and suffered much – the world was no party. Rather, they were anticipating the coming Party!”

– Joni Eareckson Tada in *Pearls of Great Price*, p.29

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NIV **Matthew 24:1-4a, 44** Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. ² "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." ³ **As 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 coming and of [what about] the end of the age?" ⁴ **Jesus answered:** ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

The Return of the Incarnation

NIV **Matthew 25:1-5** *"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and 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, 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.*

1st Century Biblical Marriage was a Three Stage Process:

- **The Betrothal Period**: The couple is married, the dowry, called a *Mohar*, is paid by the Groom's family to the Bride's family.
 - A contract is signed called a *Ketubah*. And, they are now husband and wife.
 - Then came a waiting period of about 1 year with different responsibilities to attend to. The wife went back to her parent's home and the husband went to "prepare a place for his bride" – build a home, establish his career, etc.
 - Assuming the Bride had her regular monthly cycle, all is good. (Mary + Joseph)
- **The Marriage Parade**: After about a year, then the Groom, would secretly plan to go scoop up his wife. The Bride would not know the day or hour. She was just supposed to be Watching and Ready.
 - This parade was usually at midnight, with the groomsmen and bridesmaids creating a torchlight parade through the streets with shouting and trumpet blasts to get the Bride and bring her back to the Groom's house in a special caravan. (This is the scene of Matthew 25:1-13.)
- **The Marriage Feast / Supper**: This usually went on for days and was a community event. (See John 2:1-2) Then...finally was the wedding night.

The Traditional Interpretation is:

- **Phase 1 Betrothal** was initiated because of the Incarnation.
 - Through Jesus' Death, Resurrection and Ascension, we were "married" to Christ when we placed our trust in Him as our Savior.
 - The "dowry" was paid by His own blood. – Gal 3:14; Hebrews 13:12
 - The Church today is "betrothed" to Christ and we should be watching and waiting for the Marriage Caravan to take us to the Wedding Feast. – Ephesians 5:21-33
 - Jesus is currently "preparing a place for us" – John 14:3
- **Phase 2 is The Rapture.** It is viewed as the Groom coming to take the Bride to the Father's house for the Feast.
 - Both the OT Saints and the NT Believers. – 1Thessalonians 4:16-17
- **Phase 3 is The Wedding Feast.** Let the party begin!
 - Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 19:5-7

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NIV **Matthew 25:6-9** *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.'*

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NIV **Matthew 25:10-13** 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 [be alert and prepared], because you do not know the day or the hour."

● Take Away #1: Be Wise!

NIV Hebrews 9:27-28 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

● Take Away #2: Be Ready!

NIV Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.