

Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 11th, 2011

- Ten years ago today, we all witnessed the unspeakable evil of Islam, and what some believe signaled the beginning of the end of the world.
- Since 9/11 we have seen the rapid escalation of geopolitical events, the likes of which no generation has ever known in the history of the world.
- At the risk of sounding hyper sensational, September 11th, 2001 commenced a countdown, swiftly fulfilling Bible prophecy about the rapture.

- Revelation 12:12 says the devil is filled with fury because he knows his time is short. It's for this reason that unthinkable evil is waxing worse.
- Ephesians 6:12 says our war isn't against people but rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world; spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- I'm of the belief that the intensity and the enormity of these forces of evil, authenticates, and validates, that the rapture of the church is imminent.

- In our prophecy update back on July 17th, we looked at the prophetic significance of several things taking place during this month of September.
- Since then, I've sensed the Holy Spirit impressing on my heart the urgent need to ready, and steady, the bride of Christ, for the return of Christ.
- 9/11 represents to me as an Arab believer in Jesus Christ a profound opportunity to get as many people out of the burning building of this world.

- This is why, for the last seven weeks, we have been doing this study of why it is that the rapture must happen before the seven year tribulation.
- On this, the 10th anniversary of 9/11, I can't think of a more apropos reason for a pre-tribulation rapture than part six; the "Responsibility on us."
- The "seven" reasons in the form of an acronym for the word rapture, that the rapture of the church has to happen before the tribulation are:

R EVELATION TO US

A FFECT UPON US

P URITY OF US

T RUMPETS FOR US

U NIFORMITY WITH US

R ESPONSIBILITY ON US

E NCOURAGEMENT FROM US

- The second "R" in our rapture acronym, is the "responsibility on us," and in order to understand this, I'll invite you to turn to Matthew 25:1-13.

Matthew 25:1-13 NIV "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. (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. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' (12) "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' (13) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

- The parable of the ten virgins has been the subject of much debate amongst Bible teachers, and one for which there are two schools of thought.
- Some believe that the ten virgins represents those professing Christians in the church who think they're saved, but do not go up in the rapture.
- Others believe the ten virgins represent Israel and not the church chiefly because the oil can't be the Holy Spirit if it could have been bought.

- There are very compelling arguments on both sides of this table however, I'm of the belief, both interpretations teach a pre-tribulation rapture.
- Here's how I get there; whether Jesus is speaking of the church, Israel or both, the teaching of the parable speaks to their ability to respond.
- The five virgins who were wise, had the "responsibility" to take oil in their jars along with their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

- Conversely; the five foolish virgins though taking their lamps as well, did not take any oil with them when the time came for the "midnight cry."
- It's interesting to note that Jesus says all the virgins became drowsy and fell asleep because the bridegroom was taking a long time in coming.
- The bridegroom comes then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones ask the wise for oil as their lamps were going out.

- The bridegroom was seemingly delaying his coming which led to the sleepiness and laziness of all ten virgins but only five were wise and saved.
- The determining factor in their salvation was that they had the responsibility to take the oil along with their lamps so that they wouldn't run out.

- The contrast between these five foolish, and these five wise virgins is striking, in that the foolish ones responded by not taking the oil with them.
- Why? Because the foolish virgins thought they still had time by virtue of when the wise refuse to give them their oil, they go out and try to buy it.
- Thinking they still had time, we're told that "later they also came and said; Lord, Lord, open the door for us," but He tells them "I don't know you."

- It's what Jesus says next that's so chilling He tells them; "therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." That's why it fits.
- It fits and it's in keeping with the theme of the two parables like bookends on both sides of this parable of the five foolish and five wise virgins.
- The common denominator in all three parables is the responsibility, or ability to respond, if you prefer, on the part of the ones who were wise.

PARABLE	SCRIPTURE	ABILITY	RESPONSE
SERVANTS	MATTHEW 24:32-51	SERVANTHOOD	WISE SERVANT TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOOLISH SERVANT THOUGHT HIS MASTER DELAYED HIS COMING
VIRGINS	MATTHEW 25:1-13	SALVATION	WISE VIRGINS TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOOLISH VIRGINS DIDN'T AS THE BRIDEGROOM DELAYED HIS COMING
TALENTS	MATTHEW 25:14-30	STEWARDSHIP	WISE STEWARDS TOOK RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY FOOLISH STEWARD IN FEAR HID IT TILL HIS COMING

- Now, how do these parables drive a death nail into the coffin of the opposing views? I'm so very glad you asked. Consider the following:
- If the rapture happens at anytime other than before the seven year tribulation, then the servants, virgins, and stewards will respond differently.

- Instead of the foolish virgin being caught off guard, she will be on guard, because the clock has already started ticking, and respond accordingly.
- Instead of the foolish servant thinking there's time to party because the master delays His coming, he too responds differently and is on guard.
- Instead of the foolish steward thinking the owner won't return for a long time and hiding his talent in the ground, he takes personal responsibility.

- This is why the timing of this part of our pre-tribulation rapture study is so apropos on this, the tenth anniversary of that fateful day on 9/11/01.
- Here in the United States we didn't know the "day or hour," that this evil attack would come, thus, for many who lost their lives, it was too late.
- Had we known it would come that day and hour on Tuesday, September 11th then we would've had the ability to respond before it was too late.

- Suffice it to say, it came at an hour that we expected it not, and caught us off guard because we weren't keeping watch thus we weren't ready.
- On the other hand, had we responded by "keeping watch," we would have taken the responsibility to have the oil with our lamps and be ready.
- That dearly beloved is the clarion call; the "midnight cry!" "Wake up, get your oil, trim your lamps, here's the Bridegroom, come out to meet Him.