

Decoding The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Deep Dive

Matthew 25: 1-13

Hebraic View of this Parable

John 10:11–16

[11] **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Q: Who is the other fold?

A: The Northern kingdom or the 10 tribes or Ephriam.

Hebraic View of this Parable

There are **two major interpretations**:

1. Traditional Christian View

The "other sheep" are the **Gentiles** (non-Jews). Yeshua was speaking primarily to Jews, and He was saying that Gentiles would also become part of God's people, resulting in one flock under one Shepherd.

2. Two-House / Ephraim View

The "other sheep" are the **lost sheep of the House of Israel** (the Northern Kingdom), often identified as **Ephraim** or the **Ten Tribes**.

This view connects **John 10:16** with: **Ezekiel 37:15–28**

Hebraic View of this Parable

- The two sticks represent:
 - **Judah** (Southern Kingdom)
 - **Joseph/Ephraim** (Northern Kingdom)
- God says He will reunite them into **one nation** with **one king** over them.

Ezekiel 37	John 10
Judah and Ephraim reunited	Two folds become one flock
One nation	One flock
One king (Messiah)	One Shepherd (Messiah)

- Yeshua lays down his life so the 2 become 1 with him as the shepherd.

Hebraic View of this Parable

Ezekiel 34:11–12

[11] “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, **I myself will search for my sheep** and will seek them out. [12] As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a **day of clouds and thick darkness**.

Jeremiah 30:3, 7

[3] For behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and **I will bring them back to the land** that I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it.”

[7] Alas! That day is so great, there is none like it; **it is a time of distress for Jacob**; yet he shall be saved out of it.

Hebraic View of this Parable

Jeremiah 3:13–14

[13] Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. [14] Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and **I will bring you to Zion.**

Jeremiah 31:10, 13

[10] “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.’

[13] Then shall the **young women** rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

Hebraic View of this Parable

Jeremiah 33:11

the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, **the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride...**

On to the Parable

Matthew 25:1-13

The custom of lit lamps at a Jewish wedding dates back to the event at Mt. Siani – the tongues of flame at the giving of the Torah. Lit lamps represent Torah and the light of the Torah.

Decoding the Parable

1) 10 Virgins

Numbers 14:27

“How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me.”

A second supporting passage is found in **Psalms 82:1**:

“God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment.”

Isaiah 1:18

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Decoding the Parable

2) Took their Lamps

Proverbs 6:23

For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life...

Lamp = Commandment

Light = Instruction, Teaching, Torah

Lamps represent the Torah and the light of the Torah.

Decoding the Parable

3) Went to meet the Bridegroom

Acts 1:6

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time **restore** the kingdom to Israel?”

Q: When was it originally united?

A: Under King David, his reign over the 12 tribes. After King Solomon it was split, North and South under King Rehoboam. It's never been united since. Messiah's job is to reunite them.

Decoding the Parable

4) 5 wise and 5 foolish

Matthew 25:2

Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

The Wise

Deuteronomy 4: 5-8

Psalms 19:7

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple...

Decoding the Parable

Proverbs 28:7

The one who keeps the law is a son with understanding, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.

The Foolish

Romans 2:17–20

[17] But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God [18] and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; [19] and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, [20] an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth.

Decoding the Parable

Psalm 40:8

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Isaiah 42:18–19

This is about Israel's Failure to Hear and See

[18] Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! [19] Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD?

Isaiah 42:24

Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey?

Decoding the Parable

5) They all Slumbered

Matthew 25:5

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

To sleep is to not follow Torah

Awake is doing what is right

Jeremiah 16:19

O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.

Decoding the Parable

The doctrine of Constantine caused many of the early believers to fall asleep. This doctrine typically refers to Emperor Constantine's overarching impact on Christian theology, church-state relations, and his role in shaping orthodox Christian doctrine during the 4th century.

Rather than writing theology himself, Constantine influenced Christian doctrine through key political, legal, and ecumenical actions. Look up “Edict of Milan” or “First council of Nicaea” for more information on this topic.

His Imperial Model of Church Unity was:

- **One God, One Emperor, One Church.**

He succeeded mightily.

Decoding the Parable

Q: How did the bride “wake up” and trim her lamp?

A: The ministry of Elijah. This always proceeds the Bridegroom.

Matthew 17:10–13

[10] And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” [11] He answered, “**Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.** [12] **But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.**” [13] Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Decoding the Parable

Luke 1:17

...and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Q: How do we recognize Elijahs ministry?

A: By the Message and the Results.

Malachi 4:4–5

[4] “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. [5] “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

Decoding the Parable

Isaiah 40:3

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word.

Joshua 24:15

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Decoding the Parable

2 Kings 17:13

Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

2 Kings 17:14–15

[14] But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. [15] They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them.

Decoding the Parable

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

1 Kings 18:31

Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,”

Q: What prepared the wise brides?

A: They removed themselves from mixed worship. They follow Torah. They understand the coming of Messiah is about reuniting the 12 Tribes of Israel.

Decoding the Parable

6) **At Midnight there was a cry.**

Midnight = the middle of the night.

Night = Tribulation.

Mid-tribulation, even the foolish virgins know something is happening now.

All virgins arose at the call.

Q: What caused the foolish to not pay attention to these events?

A: Possibly the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine. If you think you will be raptured before the tribulation, you won't recognize it when it comes.

Decoding the Parable

Joel 3:2

I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land...

Q: Has Israel been divided?

Zechariah 14:2–3

[2] For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. [3] Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

Decoding the Parable

Q: How will this come about?

A: Like when they came out of Egypt.

There are two major elements of this judgment of the nations:

- Economic judgement
- War between nations

Joel 3:2,9

[2] I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land...

[9] Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.

Decoding the Parable

Matthew 25:10

And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

Q: What are they buying?

A: ?

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments...”

After 1,700+ years of no Torah, you need help. The spirit must open your eyes, ears and heart.

Decoding the Parable

Ezekiel 36:26–27

[26] And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31:33

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Romans 7:22

For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being...

Decoding the Parable

Matthew 7:21–23

[21] “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Psalms 48:8

As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God will establish forever.

Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Decoding the Parable

Watch and prepare for the signs and events that proceed His second coming.

This is the moral of the story
“Watch and Prepare”.

