

# CK2 The Age to Come

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## I. There are Different Ages Revealed in the Bible

### 1. Introduction

- **We are living in an unprecedented time of global change**
  - Change makes people fearful and anxious and self-centred
  - Believers need to see Global events from a Bible perspective of the End Times
  - A World view is a set of beliefs and assumptions that express how cultures interpret and explain their experience. It shapes the way people think and respond
  - We need a Biblical worldview, a way of viewing life according to God's perspective
- **God is outworking and Eternal Kingdom plan that culminates in His Kingdom being extended over all creation**
  - All success in life involves having a long-term plan and sticking to it?
  - A Long-term plan forms a guide to all decision making
  - Short term sacrifices and self-denial are made because of expectation of long-term gain
  - God has a long-term plan
  - There is a time frame and plan that God is working out, to manifest His Kingdom

*Heb 2:5 For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak in subjection to angels*

*Heb 2:6 But one testified in a certain place, saying "WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM, OR THE SON OF MAN THAT YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM?"*

*Heb 2:7 YOU HAVE MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOUR, AND SET HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS*

*Heb 2:8 YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET" For in that He put all things in subjection under Him. **But now we do not yet see all things put under him***

*Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

- *Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
  - **"World to come".....This refers to the inhabited earth in a future period of time**
  - **"Now".....This refers to the Present Age**
  - **"Not Yet". ....This refers to the Coming Age**
    - The Rule of Jesus over creation is not occurring in its fullness yet

- Jesus has been crowned with Glory & Honour and won the Right to Rule
- **Jesus' tangible rule over the earth awaits the Age to Come**
- **In this present age Jesus is preparing Sons to reign with Him over creation (v10)**
- **There will come a time when Jesus will take up His right to rule (Rev 5:1-7)**

## 2. What is the meaning of "Age"?

- "Age".....aion.....an extended period of time marked by the outworking of an aspect of God's larger plan
- The Bible refers to different "Ages" or distinct periods of time in God's Eternal Kingdom plan

## 3. The Age to Come

- Jesus spoke of it
  - *Mat 12:32* *Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come*
- Paul spoke of it
  - *Eph 1:20* *which He worked in Christ Jesus when he raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*
  - *Eph 1:21* *far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*
  - **Note: they both refer to periods of time called "This Age" and also to an "Age to come"**

## 4. This Present Age

- *Gal 1:4* *who gave Himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father*
  - The present age is the current age in which we live. It is characterized by evil
  - *"Evil"....poneros...full of labour, having evil or hurtful influence, causing grief and sorrow*
  - This present evil age is influenced by Satan and evil spirit beings in the spirit realm
  - *1 Jhn 5:19* *We know that we are of God, and the whole world (Kosmos) lies under the sway of the wicked one*
  - They rule over the world systems and cultures of the word and influence world events
  - Invisible evil spiritual beings in the spirit realm influence the way people think and behave
  - The mind of people become blinded to truth by the activity of evil spirits (2 Cor 4:4)

## 5. This Present Age will be Replaced by the Age to Come

- **This age will come to an end**
  - Mat 13:49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just  
Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit  
Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” Amen
- **This Age will be replaced by another completely different age....the Age to Come**
  - Mar 10:29. So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers and sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s  
Mar 10:30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time - houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions – **and in the age to come**, eternal life  
Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the **first resurrection**  
Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years
- This **Age to Come** is known as the **Millennium or One Thousand Years**
  - It is also known as the “times of restoration” (Acts 3:21)...reconstitution to the original state
- **NOTE: THREE COMMON VIEWS OF THE MILLENNIUM**
  - A. Premillennialism:**
    - This view teaches that Jesus returns before (pre) His 1,000- year millennial rule
    - This is the only view that interprets end-time prophecy in a literal or face value way
  - B. Postmillennialism:**
    - This view teaches that Jesus returns after (post) His 1,000-year rule
    - Most postmillennialists are preterist; they see many end-time prophecies as fulfilled in AD 70, rather than being partially fulfilled at that time as a prophetic foreshadowing of end-time events
    - The church establishes the Millennium by fully Christianizing the world before He returns
  - C. Amillennialism: This means “no Millennium”**
    - This view teaches that Jesus’ 1----year reign is not a literal, earthly reign, but merely a spiritual victory over sin in the heart of the believer
    - Most amillennialists limit the kingdom on the earth to being mostly in the heart of the believer

- **How Premillennialists see the Millennium**

- The Millennium is a 1000-year period of time during which Jesus the last Adam will successfully reign with His saints from and over the earth where the First Adam was assigned to reign
- The period of 1000 years is mentioned 7 times in Rev 20
- This one-thousand-year reign of Christ and His saints upon the earth comes between two events: **The Second Coming of Christ and the Eternal State**
- The Millennium or Age to Come will be marked by great demonstrations of the supernatural power of God. We can press in to experience a foretaste of that now (Heb 6:5)

## 6. **The Age to Come will also be replaced**

- There is more than one age to come
- *Eph 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*  
*Eph 2:7 that in the **ages to come** He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus*
  - **“Ages”**. This shows clearly that there is more than one age or period of God’s plan that is yet to come
  - The Age to Come (Millennium) will come to an end and be succeeded by another age...the Eternal Age
  - The Present Evil Age, the Millennial Age and the Eternal greatly differ from one another

## II. **What will be the Conditions on the Earth in the Age to Come**

### 1. **Jesus will return and Assert His Right to Reign**

- *Rev 11:7 saying “We give You thanks, O Lord Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, Because **You have taken Your great power and reigned** Rev 11:18 The **nations were angry and Your wrath has come**, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should, and those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”*
- ***Ps 102: 15 So the nations shall fear the Name of the Lord, And all the kings of the earth Your Glory.***  
*Ps 102:16 For the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear Zion, He shall appear in His glory*
- ***Ps 72:11 Yes all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him***  
*Ps 72:12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also and him who has no helper*
- ***Zec 14:9 And the Lord shall be King over all the earth, In that day it shall be “The LORD is one, and His name one.”***
  - Jesus will return to. Be acknowledged and honoured as King over all the earth
  - Nations will be angry...Kings react to losing power, even as Herod reacted to news of Jesus birth

- Jesus' return is a time of **judgement** on those that refuse Him, a time of **reward** for those who faithfully follow Him, and a time of **restoration** of all things

## 2. Satan will be bound 100 thousand years

- *Rev 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan and **bound** him for 1000 years;*  
*Rev 20:3 and He cast him into the bottomless pit, and **shut him up** and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*
  - Satan will be bound for a period of one thousand years
  - Note: Satan. Will be bound, shut up in the bottomless pit, and a seal set upon him
  - No longer will he or his demonic spirits have power to operate upon the earth and deceive whole nations
  - For the first time in history since Adam fell there will be no demonic oppression of people

## 3. Overcoming Believers will be Rewarded and Vindicated

- *Mat 16:2 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works*
- *Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones and they sat on them and judgement was committed to them. Then I saw souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the Word of God, who had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*  
*Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection*
  - In this present age believers in Christ suffer much persecution and hardship from the world and from Satan and demonic spirits
  - Overcomers are faithful believers who have overcome obstacles to faith and obedience and have surrendered their character to be conformed to be Christlike
  - Believers who overcome and stay faithful to Christ in this present evil age will be rewarded
  - They will be raised in the First resurrection when Jesus comes again, and will reign with Christ for one thousand years
- **Resurrection takes place in two phases:**
  - The First Resurrection:** occurs at the beginning of the millennium
  - The Second Resurrection:** occurs at the end of the One Thousand years
- *Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison*  
*Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea*

*Rev 20:9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them*

*Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

- At the end of the one thousand years Satan will be released from his prison and go forth to deceive the nations and cause them to fight against the saints and the city of Jerusalem
- He will be defeated, and Jesus will hand over the Kingdom to His Father and the Eternal Age will begin
- *1 Cor 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all the rule and all authority and power*

#### **4. The Glory of God will fill the Earth**

- *Num 14:21 but as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD*
  - The glory of the Lord is His manifest, tangible presence and power
  - Not only will the glory of the Lord be experienced tangibly, the knowledge of the glory will fill the earth (Hab 2:14)
  - There will be demonstrations of the great power and glory of God throughout the earth
  - These demonstrations of the power of God over all things were seen in the ministry of Jesus
  - **This will be a time of unprecedented healings and miracles as the Kingdom is manifested**
    - Blind see, deaf hear, lame walk, dumb speak, demons removed, creative miracles
    - Demonstrations of divine justice and judgement upon sin
    - Miracles throughout the Bible are previews of the power of the Age to Come

#### **5. The Government of Jesus shall expand and grow over the 1000 years**

- *Is 9:7 Of the **increase of His government and peace there will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with **judgement and justice** From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*
  - **It will be a time of global peace and safety**
  - **Justice will prevail...no more corruption**
- *Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. **And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.***
- *Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people;*

*It shall break into pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

- **The kingdom Rule of Jesus Christ will expand worldwide and fill every sphere of society**
- **His rule will progressively increase until all the institutions of all nations are full disciplined by His teachings**
- Political-Agricultural- Economic- Education-Media-Arts-Technology-Justice
- Infrastructure will be developed in every area of life that is aligned with Kingdom values
- The Kingdom will expand and grow until it fills every area of the earth
- This may take the whole millennium to accomplish fully

#### **6. Jesus will Govern His World wide Kingdom from Jerusalem**

- *Is 2:1 The world that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning **Judah and Jerusalem***
- *Is 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountain. And it shall be exalted above the hill; **And all nations shall flow to it***  
*Is 2:3 Many people shall come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." **For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***  
*Is 2:4 **He shall judge between the nations,** And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **Neither shall they learn war anymore***
  - **All nations shall come up to Jerusalem to Honour Jesus**
  - **It will be the physical Governmental Centre of His Coming Kingdom**
- *Zec 14:16 **And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which come against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles***  
*Zec 14:17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be **no rain***  
*Zec 14:18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the **plague** with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles*
  - All the kings and nations will annually keep the Feast of Tabernacles and honour Jesus
- **There is already a Historical preview of the Coming Kingdom in the Rule of Solomon**
- *2 Chr 9:22 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom*
- *2 Chr 9:23 **And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.***
- *2 Chr 9:24 Each man brought his present; articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horse and mules, at a set rate year by year*

## 7. Israel will be restored to all its Promised Land

- Jer 16:14 *"Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, "The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,"*  
Jer 16:15 *but, the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them. **For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers***
- Eze 36:23 *And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD," says the Lord God, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.*  
Eze 36:24 ***For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land***

## 8. The Natural Processes of Life on Earth shall Continue

- All the normal processes of life will continue but in vastly different conditions enhanced by the supernatural
- **The Curse on the Earth will be Lifted**
  - Rom 8:21 *because the creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*
  - Rom 8:22 *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now*
- **A Time of great Joy**
  - Is 65:19 *I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying*
- **People will marry, have children, age & die**
  - Is 65:20 *"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed."*
  - No infant shall die
  - People shall live longer
  - No premature death
  - If someone dies at 100 they shall be considered cursed
  - Sin & death will still be present
  - Zec 8:4 *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.*  
Zec 8:5 *The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets."*
- **Restored harmony in the Animal Kingdom**
  - Is 11:16 *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.*  
Is 11:17 *The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*



*Is 11:8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand into the vipers nest*

- Animosity of animal to animal shall cease (cf Noah's ark)
- Animosity of animal to humans shall cease
- Animal diet shall change

- **Unprecedented Prosperity**

- *Jer 31:12* Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the LORD. For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all.

### **III. What will Believers do in the Age to Come?**

#### **1. People who will be Alive in the Earth in the Millennium**

- Resurrected Jesus
- Resurrected Overcoming Believers from every generation
- Believers unprepared and unqualified for the Millennial reign with Christ
- Unserved people

#### **2. Jesus Ministry...Subduing All things**

- *1 Cor 15:24* Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.
- *1 Cor 15:25* For He must reign till he has put all enemies under His feet
  - Jesus' agenda will bring an end to all rule and authority and power that is contrary to and independent of Father God
  - When He has accomplished that he will hand over His kingdom reign to the Father who will reign over all the earth
- *1 Cor 15:28* Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.
  - Jesus will continue to reign with His Father over all things (Rev 11:15)

#### **3. Resurrected Overcomers**

- **Believers who are overcomers will be raised from the dead in the First Resurrection**
  - *Rev 20:6* Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years
  - The First Resurrection is a resurrection of **reward and honour**
  - Those who qualify for this resurrection will never die
  - They will have resurrected bodies just like Jesus had
- **Daniel saw this in his vision**
  - (i) **He saw Jesus receive the right to rule**
    - *Dan 7:13* "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

- *Dan 7:14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His Kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*
- (ii) **He saw the Overcomers inherit the Kingdom**
  - *Dan 7:18 But the saints of the Most High **shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever***
  - *Dan 7:21 "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,*
  - *Dan 7:22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgement was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the **time came for the saints to possess the kingdom***
  - *Dan 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be **given to the people of the Most High**. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*
- **Resurrected Overcomers will be able to move about freely, eat and drink, become visible to people or vanish**
  - *Luk 24:36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*
  - *Luk 24:37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost*
  - They will be able to dwell in both the physical and the spiritual realm and move freely
- **Jesus will share His throne with Overcoming Believers**
  - *Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne*
  - He will share responsibility and authority to work with Him to subdue the earth
  - They will be responsible to exercise justice, and to instruct and lead every sphere of life
  - They will operate with great demonstrations of power
  - The Reign or Rule means to Protect and to Cultivate, just as Adam was mandated in the Garden

#### **4. Other Believers and Unsaved People**

- Believers who failed to qualify for the First Resurrection and Millennial Kingdom will have great regret at the privileges and honour missed
- *Mat 25:30 And cast the unprofitable servant into utter darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*
- Everyone will have normal day to day life but in unprecedented global conditions
- The close connections again of heaven and earth and presence of then Glory of God will dramatically alter living conditions in the earth.
- People will marry, have families, study, live, work and die
- Every area of human endeavour will excel to new levels
- Life will be greatly different...great peace, joy and prosperity

#### IV. The Call to Prepare for the Age to Come

##### 1. The Age to Come will be Preceded by Tribulation

- **Jesus revealed the signs of His impending coming in Mat 24 and Luke 21**
  - Luk 21:25 *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars; and on the earth **distress of nations, with perplexity**, the sea and the waves roaring;*
  - Luk 21:26 ***men's hearts failing them from fear** and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*
- The transition to the Age to come will be preceded by Global turmoil
- Mat 24:7 *For nation will rise against nation , and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places*
  - Successive greater devastating global events will cause people to be distressed and perplexed
  - These will come in waves with increasing intensity
  - Jesus likened this to a woman in childbirth (Mat 24:8)
  - **Perplexed**...mentally confused, unable to think clearly or act intelligently
  - **People will be filled with great fear**
  - People will desire security and peace and trade away their freedom for this
  - **Governments will become more and more controlling trending to a One World Government**
  - **This is already the goal of the UN 2030 Agenda embraced by our Prime Minister**
  - Under the Global Socialist Government private property and ownership of resources will be removed and people will become dependent upon Government
- **Jesus also warned about the danger of deception**
  - Mat 24:4 *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*
  - **Deceived...to lead astray, cause to wander away**
    - **Cause to believe what is false and disbelieve what is true**
  - The family and the church will be vilified and attacked because they hold to values that are being progressively rejected by society
  - Christians will be labelled as a threat to society because of their beliefs and persecuted
  - Current global Events give a small preview of how quickly society can change
  - In the midst of change we must lean into God and His Word, develop a love for the Truth, and demonstrate The Character of Christ
  - Ps 112:7 *He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD*
  - Ps 112:8 *His heart is established; He will not be afraid*

## 2. Jesus Warning to Walk Worthy

- Luk 21:34 *But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly*
- Luk 21:35 *For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth*
- **The Need for Intimacy**
  - Luk 21:36 *Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*
  - Jesus warns believers to take heed to their heart condition in the end times
  - "Take heed"....to attend to, be addicted to, pay careful attention to your heart condition
  - We can become so distracted and weighed down by the pressures and worries of life that we become spiritually unaware and insensitive to the Holy Spirit
  - How do we respond to people who believe or behave differently? Arrogance? Fear?
  - Jesus counsel:  
**Watch and Pray**....stay spiritually sensitive and filled with the Spirit
  - This is the time for the church to build a strong personal prayer life

## 3. **The Bride Must Make Herself Ready**

- Rev 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready"*
- Rev 19:8 *And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is righteous acts of the saints*
  - The Bride made herself ready...made all the necessary preparations
  - She embraced the **process of preparation of heart and character**
  - She embraced purity of heart....Father's Agenda is to transform our heart and character
  - She gave herself to **acts of loving kindness serving people**
- **The White Garments are rewards for preparation**
  - The white garments represent resurrection bodies whose glory reveals and displays their actions and works while on the earth
  - God purposes that each of us develop the character of Christ within us (Rom 8:29)
  - It is our responsibility to embrace and cooperate with His work of holiness in our lives, so we experience an "Abundant Entrance" into His Coming Kingdom (2 Peter 1:10-11)
  - If we refuse to let God change us we are spiritually blind (2 Peter 1:9)
  - Little decisions and choices we make each day shape our character and set our destiny course

## The Need for Intimacy through Prayer

- Mat 25:1 *Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom*
- Mat 25:2 *Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish*
- Mat 25:3 *Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*
- Mat 25:4 *but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*
- Mat 25:5 *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*
- Mat 25:6 *“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’*
- Mat 25:7 *Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.*
- Mat 25:8 *And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’*
- Mat 25:9 *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,’*
- Mat 25:10 *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.*
- Mat 25:11 *“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’*
- Mat 25:12 *But he answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’*
- Mat 25:13 *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*
  - The virgins all had lamps and all had oil
  - Virgins represent believers in Christ....joined to Him in a marriage covenant
  - Oil represents the Holy Spirit, the source of light and life
  - The Lamp represents the spirit of man
- **Symbols**
  - The lamp represents your inner man....your heart and spirit
  - The Oil represents the Holy Spirit, the anointing of God
  - The Purpose of the oil....to produce light. Without the fresh oil there is no light
  - The light reveals the reality of your connection to Jesus...must shine brightly
- **At the beginning all had lamps, all had oil....but during the night they fell asleep**
  - The night represents warfare, stressful situations, pressures of life
  - Sleep represents insensitivity, lack of awareness to what is happening around you
  - Falling asleep was a process....nodding off and then asleep
- **What happens when the Oil runs out?**
  - **No desire for the Presence of God**

- **No desire for fellowship with believers**
- **At Midnight the Cry went out to awaken the Virgins**
  - The oil runs out unless it is replenished daily
  - Instead of passion and hunger for God the believer becomes passive and stagnant, and spiritually unaware
  - There is a price to pay for the fresh oil
  - Cannot walk in light unless have oil
  - All the virgins slumbered because of the delay  
They were insensitive to heaven...no oil and no fellowship
  - **The Virgins needed to be awakened to meet the groom**
- **The Midnight Cry**
  - There was a cry came at midnight....the darkest hour
  - What was the midnight cry?
  - The bridegroom is coming! Jesus is coming soon
  - There is a Global cry to awaken, a cry to arise and meet the groom
- **The Foolish Virgins**
  - Asked the wise for oil....they were rejected
  - They had failed to pay the price and to prepare
  - Every person must pay the price to be filled with fresh oil
  - They were not ready
  - They were excluded from the Marriage Supper they had waited for
- **The Wise Virgins**
  - When the groom came those with oil were able to arise, light their lamp, and go and meet Him
  - They had paid the price in prayer and surrender to obtain fresh oil
  - They had prepared
  - Those who were ready entered the Marriage Supper and celebrated with the Groom

**It is Time to Fill your Lamp with fresh Oil and Prepare for the Coming of Jesus**