

**Matthew 24:32 – 25:30**

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~ We are still up on the Mount of Olives with Jesus and the apostles as we begin this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. Our Lord has answered the questions of the disciples. The question was: what is the sign of the end of the age? The answer is: the Great Tribulation - and the event that triggers the Great Tribulation is the appearance of the abomination of desolation in the Holy Place, whatever and wherever those are. We aren't looking for the abomination of desolations on this Spiritual Safari; because the Bible doesn't tell us what that is. We are looking for our Blessed Hope – Christ Jesus our Savior. The Bible tells us all about Him. Remember, the church doesn't even have a Holy Place today – so, you can't be looking for an abomination there. I hope we have made that more than crystal clear now. If you have not read our previous report then I suggest you go back and do so now. Jesus said the coming of His return will be as lightning and will be a very, very public display. We're going to have some extremely embarrassed saints running to and fro IN THAT DAY, naked, with no wedding garment on - when Christ returns. They shall be ashamed at His appearing, I promise you that. This isn't funny business, friends....

**XXIV**

***32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:***

***33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.***

~ There is no Scriptural evidence worthy of thoughtful consideration to indicate that the fig tree in this passage is symbolic of anything other than the nation Israel. Elsewhere in Scripture, the symbolism of the vine and the fig tree always represent Israel; and consistency is the key to comprehension and clarification in Holy Writ and on this so-called safari.

Trees and vines do grow abundantly in Israel, too, by the way. Fig trees in the north and vineyards south of Jerusalem flourish. Jesus always uses the common state of the land in Israel as the basis for His parables, too. So, if we confuse that altogether with the desert blossoming like a rose - because the desert is definitely NOT blossoming like a rose over there today - we will have no hope whatsoever of prophecy working out in our thinking....

***34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.***

~ This is a warning that can refer to the entire race in Israel – or – it could refer to the generation that was alive at that time. If one generation is twenty years then this takes place in a much shorter period of time than that! My personal hypothesis is it refers to both and either; but the stronger emphasis on our safari will be placed on the overall race of Israelites. Israel is not going to pass away, friends – you can just write that down! Haman, as we shall see, was unable to destroy them; Pharaoh was not able; Hitler did not succeed, and God knows – Hitler tried! Iran is not going to exterminate Israel today; irrespective of the support or non-support they receive from other countries. God will see to that. He says so. Again – just write that down and remember this old, poor Bible teaching- whatever said this WAY back when, okay? How do I know, you ask? Again - I know because the Lord Jesus says so - right here....

***35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.***

***36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.***

~ This is a startling reality to consider: that we're going to get a new Heaven and a new earth - but we aren't getting another Bible! That's a HUGE relief to me because it's taken me a very long time to grasp what we already have. In fact, I'm not done grasping it. Frankly, I never will be; and neither will you - so, pay attention! I suspect God may restate His Word for the benefit of mankind - but it isn't going to change one jot or tittle. It sure isn't going away. The atheist wants to declare religion will no longer exist in the future. Only an abject idiot would claim that. Frankly, I wish they were

right about religion ceasing – but, I digress. We have and have had many who try to tell us the year and the date of Christ's return, but there's coming a time when they will try to pinpoint it to the hour. People certainly are attempting to assign antichrist to a whole bunch of different things today. The world knows something is coming - but it's as elusive as a thief in the night. Remember, if the servant had known at what hour the thief would break in, the homeowner would have been ready for the thief - and he would have killed him....

***37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

***38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,***

***39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

~ The "days of Noah" refers to an age of abjectly gross immorality. In that day, every thought and imagination of a man's heart was as black as ink. There is nothing wrong with eating and marrying – unless you're doing it without giving the glory to God! Today, people act as if God doesn't exist; and those in Noah's day acted that way, too - right up until Noah entered the ark. They lived as if God was unimportant and as if Jesus was not going to return and judge them. The atheist today simply says, "...God doesn't exist and never did..." - but, as it turns out, the Lord Jesus Christ is as real as raindrops – and His Word is still the Living Water of absolute objective truth that will never be changed or altered. If you are eating and drinking – or whatever you are doing - you had better be doing it to the glory of God, or friends, God isn't claiming you – and He isn't using your so called good works, either! You can just write that down, too. We're told in the days of Noah that every thought and imagination in the heart of man was only evil continually, you may recall. Then, it started raining.

There was a little boy who had never been away from home before when his friend invited him over to eat with the family. Both of the mothers

agreed and off went the little boy down the street to eat and spend the night at his friend's house. They sat down to dinner and the little boy bowed his head to pray. Well, while he was waiting with his eyes closed, the friend and his family just dug right in and started grabbing stuff from every which way; leaning across each other and serving themselves huge portions. They grabbed the good stuff right away and all that was left was a little half-burned pork chop and a half a spoonful of rice. The little boy, so innocently asked, "...don't you people thank God for your food?" After an awkward moment the mother of the friend said, "...no, we don't." And the little boy said, "...that's just how my dog eats!" - and he laughed without even knowing what he was saying.

Multitudes just "dig in" like that. There is no thought or regard whatsoever about what they're doing – certainly no regard for other people. They physically overeat three times per day - and every moment in between. They're gluttons. On a spiritual basis, speaking of spiritual food, this can be a positively frightening picture. Men receive things that come directly from the hand of God but they snatch it and then they run like an animal to hoard or devour it. The estimate is that five million will starve to death this year from physical starvation – I think the real number is much higher than that. Billions are starving spiritually as I type this report and as you read it. The difference is: the physically starving man simply doesn't have food; but the spiritually starving has plenty – either withholding it from others or not using it under the guise of saving it for a possible famine. Both are very common and utterly pious excuses. You and I have access to plenty today – but the child of God probably doesn't have all that much, physically speaking. The godless seem to have plenty of everything; but God is not judging the godless today. So, that's no consolation for us, either. The difference is that the godless who have everything aren't thanking God for anything; while the child of God is thankful for every scrap in this temporary life. What do we really deserve anyways? – Anything? ~

***40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

***41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.***

~ Some people may read this and feel they have cornered themselves in the Word of God. Many people are going to think I am cornered here, too; but you will be mistaken. Our safari teaches that the rapture and the church are NOT in this Olivet Discourse and, yet, I think most people assume it is right here. Well, when it says, "one taken and the other left;" I have news for you: this is not talking about the rapture and it doesn't refer to the church. These men would not have known what Jesus was talking about if He had meant the church. We're talking about "...as in the days of Noah." They knew it not until the flood came and took THEM all away. Noah was left – THEY were taken away. So, instead of rapture we have here God taking from the earth those who are NOT going to enter the Kingdom; as in, cast into outer darkness. That's what the Lord is talking about in Revelation when He speaks of the third of the world population that will be destroyed all at once and then another fourth of the population destroyed. It is a frightful picture of judgment we have here. The one that is left will enter into the Millennial Kingdom....

***42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.***

~ This watching is NOT the watching that the child of God is to do today, either. Our looking for that Blessed Hope is a comforting hope. This verse denotes fear and anxiety; and there will be fear and anxiety in that day as they will say, "...would God it were night" - except it will be in the morning that they are saying that; and they'll be saying, "...would God it were morning" - except it will be in the night they cry. It just won't be the right time for them anytime, we could say. Today, we are waiting for the Lord to return; but we aren't stressed about it and full of high anxiety – at least – we shouldn't be. There's no reason to be in fear as we wait for our Savior and Lord of Heaven.

Of course, someone must now say this is really a hair splitting contest I have going. No, friends – this is not hair splitting at all. The word "watch" in Hebrew has seventeen different meanings. Although we use the same word it still has different meanings today. The deer hunter watches the bushes for a deer to kill unless he is in town watching for his dear wife who is late to arrive to pick him up from work. Watching is the same word with two totally different applications in that context. Then, about two months later

we pass the hospital room where we see this same man sitting there with his wife. They're sitting next to their little child who is sick with a fever that won't come down. The doctor says that if, by midnight, the fever has not gone they will be in some serious trouble. That's a whole different third type of watching we have now. The list goes on. Keep an eye out for we know not what hour our Lord doth yet come....

***43 Because know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.***

***44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.***

***45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?***

***46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.***

***47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.***

***48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;***

***49 And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;***

***50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,***

***51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

~ The parables Jesus gave us were to demonstrate the attitude that most people have today regarding His return to the earth. They also reveal what will happen when He does return. Now, to advance our safari along to new

lands we are going to hit some high points and start moving along a little faster. We almost became completely bogged down – it's easy to do in Matthew. The attitude of most people is that the Lord has somehow delayed His coming. Most people treat Jesus like the wife who was late to pick them up from work. They live so carelessly that God always seems to be catching up to them in their lives; never really believing He is going to judge them one day. Well, the saved and the lost are both going to stand in His presence, my beloved. The saved will give an account of their life to determine their reward. The lost will stand to give account for their sins and, by those deeds, they'll be judged. Let's live our lives in the light that we are to stand in the presence of Christ – not the RETURN of the Lord Jesus Christ – it may be another two thousand years before He returns; how should I know? You don't know. I do know that you and I will stand in His presence someday, though; someday, when my life down here has passed me by; I'll look around and I'll wonder why He was always there for me....

## XXV

***1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.***

***2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.***

***3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:***

***4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.***

***5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.***

***6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.***

***7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.***

***8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.***

***9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.***

***10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.***

***11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.***

***12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.***

~ This passage is always the basis for those who claim a “partial rapture.” They believe that only some people, and not others, will be taken out of the world. Of course, they use the “one taken and the other left” verse grab incorrectly to support their extremely flimsy theology. As a result, they are hopelessly confused about other parts of the Bible, it affects their daily thinking and they generally become religious fanatics. A partial rapture is a partial theology – and it only ministers to “spiritual snobbery.” I never met a single person that didn’t associate themselves with the wise virgins; but you will be hard pressed to meet someone who admits they’re a foolish virgin and begin to correct their lives – beginning with the confession of sins. I know most people believe I am one of the foolish virgins – but they aren’t, that’s for sure.

Friends, when the rapture occurs EVERY single believer is going up at one time – at the command of His shout; and NONE of us are going on ANY basis of our own merit, I should add. The only reason we’ll be going is because God saves us by grace, has kept us by grace and is taking us out of this world by grace. When you have been there in Heaven ten billion years you will be there by the grace of God. As we move along, remember, we’re still talking about the nation Israel. If you will listen to the Lord Jesus speak to these men about their questions and if you will observe how He is applying it to their background so that THEY could understand it at the time we are studying then you will realize God is not answering YOU about something altogether different. Candidly, purporting any other interpretation than that which our so-called safari has set forth in this report is tantamount to interrupting God. If you will learn your Bible



properly, completely and correctly and learn how to make an educated application thereof, and if you will allow God to speak to whom it is He wants to speak to through your life, in His way - then the Bible will become a WHOLE lot more meaningful to you, friends.

The Syriac contains the Peshitta; but the Peshitta is not a manuscript - it is what's known as an uncial - and it's not even a good one - but, it does reveal very clearly many of the customs of Israel in ancient times. Notice here they meet the bridegroom AND the bride! The two are coming from the marriage to the marriage supper. In Revelation we will find out the marriage takes place in Heaven and the marriage supper takes place here in the earth! Luke says in chapter twelve at verse thirty-five, "....let your loins be girded about and your lights lighted and be ye like unto yourselves as men that wait for their lord as he returns from the wedding; that when he comes and knock they might open the door to him immediately." At this point, the wedding will be past tense. This is the honeymoon; so He won't be alone! During the Great Tribulation the Lord is still in Heaven. Here, we see Him returning with the church to the earth – with His bride. As a side note: the oil that is in the lamps of the virgins is the Spirit of God. In that day there are going to be a lot of phonies. The Lord Jesus calls them hypocrites because they have no oil. Notice all of them slept but some weren't genuine. This is important to see in order to correctly interpret this portion of Scripture....

***13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.***

~ Now, we're given another parable of stewardship for THAT DAY. This symbolizes God judging every man according to his ability. The talent we have been given is not a talent we perform at some talent show, though; and you'll never be required to perform or be judged for not performing some task that you never had the resources or ability to succeed at in the first place. Perhaps you have a marvelous open door in front of you to support sound doctrine being taught to the entire world, for example. If you aren't asking God how you are to use your time, energy, resources and money correctly for Him - then you aren't; you are misusing it and wasting it – and hiding it - you may be absolutely sure. I don't have but one talent -

and I don't want to bury it; I want to use it the best I can. I want to stand in His presence in that hour and give a good account....

***14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.***

***15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.***

***16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.***

***17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.***

***18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.***

***19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.***

***20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.***

***21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.***

***22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.***

***23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.***

***24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:***

***25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.***

***26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:***

***27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.***

***28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.***

***29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.***

***30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ~***

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