

## Episode #442 The Revolt Against the Kingdom 4 – The End of the Revolt

I. The long and glorious kingdom of God on earth in the future will end with a test of all Adamkind to reveal if we have learned to love and serve God from the heart. Many will pass this test, but some will fail. The result of their failure will be that they will revolt against the kingdom. We are examining this strange period of time and seeing what the Bible says about it.

II. Matthew 25:1-13. This parable shows the causes of the failure of some when the test comes. It relates only to the time that Matthew 24 is setting forth.

- A. Verse 1. Notice the first word “then.” The subjects of the kingdom are compared to the ten virgins, for the “kingdom of heaven” here is used to indicate its subjects. Part of the wedding celebration is that young girls (virgins) would wait for the bridegroom to make his way back home, and would accompany him and light his way with lamps.
- B. Verse 2. The wise symbolize those who were ready to face the kingdom test; the foolish symbolize those who were not ready.
- C. Verses 3-4. The oil stands for the Holy Spirit and the things of the Holy Spirit. The wise have these things on hand, but the foolish have neglected Him. The kingdom will be the time of the Spirit indeed!
- D. Verse 5. With farming common and no electric lights, people at the time were not used to staying up much after dark, so no wonder these young girls fell asleep.
- E. Verse 6. At midnight the cry comes that the bridegroom is coming!
- F. Verse 7. Due to the long wait, their lamps have run out of oil while they slept.
- G. Verse 8. The foolish ask the wise for oil, since they are running out.
- H. Verse 9. The wise know they do not have enough to spare. They advise the foolish to go to the oil salesmen and get more. Note: it is the middle of the night. They would have to get these men out of bed to do this. Not an easy task!
- I. Verse 10. The bridegroom arrives while the foolish are at this long and difficult task. The wise go into the wedding with him, and the door is shut behind them.
- J. Verse 11. The foolish arrive too late to accompany the bridegroom, but they plead with him to let them into the wedding celebration anyway.
- K. Verse 12. The bridegroom refuses. They were not there to meet him, and so he does not know them, and will not let them in.
- L. Verse 13. The lesson: those in the tribulation need to be ready for the Lord when He comes. Those who are not ready will be shut out of the Parousia! Note what this shows: that the tribulation period is a test of people on earth. Those who are ready for it have the things of the Holy Spirit available to them in need.

III. II Thessalonians 2. This passage tells us the things that must take place before the day of the Lord can be present.

- A. Verse 1. Concerning the Lord’s Parousia and their gathering to Him.
- B. Verse 2. They had received false reports and even a letter claiming to be from Paul and his companions. Note: the phrase here should be “day of the Lord,” as most good manuscripts have it, not “day of Christ.” All that must happen to bring in the day of Christ is for the Lord to pour out His Spirit from heaven to establish His government upon earth. That is the day that is next. But much must precede the Lord’s day.
- C. Verse 3. Certain things must come before the day of the Lord.
  - 1. There is an apostasy.
  - 2. The man of sin (the lawless one) is revealed.

- D. Obviously, from Paul's words here, *there was no apostasy, no falling away, when Paul wrote these words*. If there was, it would have destroyed his argument. Yet we cannot deny that there were many Satanic activities at the time Paul wrote this.
- E. I Thessalonians 2:14-16. The opposition to the apostles and the message God had given them was Satanically inspired. This opposition went on throughout the Acts period: Acts 4:1-3, 5:17-18, 12:1-4, 13:44-45, and 16:16-24. Yet none of these were an "apostasy."
- F. The Greek word *apostasia* is a revolt against duly constituted authority.
  - 1. Acts 21:21. Its only other occurrence in the New Testament. Some translate this "departure" and claim it means the rapture! But those who "departed" from Moses did so in a moral, not a physical, sense.
  - 2. Joshua 22:22. In the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) it is used of a rebellion against the LORD.
  - 3. Jeremiah 2:19. Again, the people of Israel had rebelled.
- G. Thus, II Thess. 2:3 speaks of a revolt that must come before the day of the Lord. This takes place at the conclusion of the kingdom of the heavens. But there can be no revolt until God's kingdom, His government, is already here and present.
- H. Verses 3-4. The man of sin is revealed and exalts himself. This is the culmination of the revolt against the kingdom in this most wicked man. This introduces to earth for a brief time the counterfeit kingdom of Satan to replace God's kingdom. The history of this can be considered in such books as Daniel and Revelation.

IV. Revelation 19:11-20:3. The revolt ends with Christ's return, and putting down those who rebelled against Him.

- A. Verse 11. John sees the event for which the whole world waits!
- B. Verse 12. He has many authorities on His head, as the King comes to His kingdom.
- C. Verse 13. His robe is dyed in blood, for His blood made the kingdom possible. His reputation is that He is the Word of God, God expressing Himself in human form.
- D. Verse 14. White symbolizes purity. These are probably His mighty angels.
- E. Verse 15. His word is the only weapon He needs! He will rule them with an iron rod, and thus this rebellion will be completely put down!
- F. Verse 16. This glorious One comes to bring His kingdom back into subservience.
- G. Verse 17. A strange sight: an angel standing in the sun! An iconic reality of battle in Israel (and many other places) is the carrion birds gathering to feast on the dead.
- H. Verse 18. All in the armies of opposition will be killed, great and small.
- I. Verse 19. The beast with the rebellious kings gather to war with Christ.
- J. Verse 20. The beast and false prophet are captured and treated specially, being spared from the slaughter to be cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- K. Verse 21. Everyone else is killed by Christ's word and the birds eat them.
- L. Chapter 20 verse 1. An angel with the key to the Well of The Abyss, God's prison.
- M. Verse 2. The dragon, the serpent, the devil, Satan is imprisoned for a thousand years.
- N. Verse 3. He is sealed in The Abyss for a thousand years to bring his deceptions to an end. This is followed by the period of Christ's personal presence on earth, *parousia*.

V. Bottom line: the tribulation period is not the end of this wicked course of things, but a revolt against the kingdom of God whereby God tests the world, accomplishing His good purpose. It ends with the destruction of all those who failed the test and the return and personal presence on earth of Jesus Christ on earth for a thousand, glorious years..