

If One Doesn't Know of 5/21/11, Will They Be Lost?

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Let's examine this question in the light of the parable of the ten virgins recorded in **Matthew 25:1-13**. There we read:

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

Overview: The five wise virgins are true believers in whom the Holy Spirit (the oil) dwells. The five foolish virgins are those in the churches who think they are saved and yet they are not saved as evidenced by the fact they have no oil for their lamps, that is, they do not have the Holy Spirit indwelling them. All ten are all called virgins because during the church age all those who were confessing members in churches were presumed to be saved, and true believers identify with virgins (**2 Cor. 11:2, Rev. 14:4**). Throughout the church age the true believers were commanded to be a part of a local congregation. God had not yet begun the process of separating the wheat (wise virgins) from the tares (foolish virgins) nor had God opened the seventh seal and given understanding of the timing and details of the end to the true believers. That would not occur until the beginning of the great tribulation which coincided with the end of the church age on May 21, 1988. The parable of the ten virgins begins in the church age and ends with the rapture of the wise virgins on May 21, 2011 when the door to salvation is shut...

MATTHEW 25:5A "WHILE THE BRIDEGROOM TARRIED..."

The bridegroom, of course, is the Lord Jesus Christ who is married to his bride (the true believers). However, the marriage of Christ to the true believers is not yet consummated until the day of the rapture at the end of the world when the true believers are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb (**Rev. 19:9**), which we know will take place on May 21, 2011 (see *We Are Almost There* available from Family Radio). The true believers are a chaste virgin (**2 Cor. 11:2**) espoused to Christ, even as Mary was espoused to Joseph and yet Joseph had not known Mary in the intimacy of marriage until *after* Jesus was born. **Rev. 14:4-5** declares these are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

MATTHEW 25:5B "...THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT"

This is a veiled reference to the church age during which both the wise and the foolish virgins were mixed together. Note that it says they *all* slumbered and slept. That is, both the wise and the foolish were slumbering and sleeping. God is using slumbering and sleep in this context to indicate a spiritual condition of not being awakened to the truths that concern the end. There are three other citations that reinforce this understanding of the phrase, "they all slumbered and slept," see Matt 13:25 and Daniel 8:18;10:9.

Matthew 13:25: "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

This verse refers to the church age during which Satan was sowing tares in the local congregations. The phrase, "while men slept," identifies with Matthew 25:5. "While the bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and slept." Throughout the church age, the true believers were completely unaware of many of the truths that concern the end. The separation of the wheat from the tares is a prime example. In the congregations, all who were confessing members in good standing were presumed to be saved. It was only at the end of the church age that the separation of the wheat from the tares was to take place, as we read in **Matthew 13:30**:

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The harvest refers to the ingathering that is going on during the last 17 years of earth's history during which a great multitude which no man can number is being saved (Rev. 7:9,14). The reapers are the true believers who are sharing the gospel (John 4:35-38). As they share the gospel they are the saviour of death unto death in them that perish and the saviour of life unto life in them that are saved (2 Co 2:15-16). As they share the gospel, it is the word of God that binds the tares into bundles to burn them and gathers the wheat into the barn.

Likewise, while men slept it was not God's intention to give understanding of the timing of the end. This is indicated in **Acts 1:7-8** where Jesus responded to a question put to him by the apostles in **Acts 1:6**, to which Jesus responds:

^{1:7} And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
^{1:8} But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...

In other words, God's intention for the churches was to get the gospel out into the world, which was the primary task of the local congregations. Significantly, we find that in **Daniel 2:21** God makes reference to changing the times and the seasons, but we'll reserve that for another study. There are two other passages both in the book of Daniel that also relate to the true believers slumbering and sleeping during the church age:

Dan 8:15 And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.
16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.
17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.
18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.
19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.

We find very similar language in **Daniel 10:7-11**:

10:7 And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.
8 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.
9 Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.
10 And behold an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.
11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent.

In this vision (or, in these visions), Daniel typifies the true believers who were in a deep sleep with their face toward the ground during the church age in the sense that God had not awakened them as yet to the truths concerning the end. This deep sleep identifies with **Daniel 12:4, 9** where God commanded Daniel to "seal up the words of the vision until the time of the end."

Then we read in **Daniel 8:18b-19**:

"...but he touched me and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be."

This language is very parallel to **Daniel 10:10-11** where we read:

10 And behold an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.
11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent.

This language signifies the true believers being awakened out of sleep and being made to understand the words of the book that had been sealed until the time of the end. We read about the book that was sealed with seven seals in **Rev. 5:1-9**. No man was found worthy to open the book, neither to look thereon, only the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David (who is Christ) was found worthy to open the book and to loose the seven seals thereof.

In **Daniel 8:19**, "I shall make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation," and in **Daniel 10:11**, "understand the words that I speak unto thee," both identify with the opening of the seventh seal that we read about in **Rev. 8:1**:

¹ And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

The silence in heaven "about the space of half an hour" signifies the first part of the 23-year or 8400-day great tribulation (a period of 2,300 days, see Daniel 8:14) during which virtually no one in the world was becoming saved. Simultaneous with the beginning of this 2,300 day period God opened the seventh seal that had been sealed in **Daniel 12:4,9** and began to give the true believers understanding of many important and significant truths concerning the end of the church age, the separation of the wheat from the tares, the calendar of history and timing of the end of the world, the character of God's judgment, the fact that salvation is 100% the work of Christ and that Christ made atonement for our sins before the foundation of the world. These were all monumental truths that had not been fully understood heretofore during the church age. This 2,300 day period began on May 21, 1988 (the day before the feast of Pentecost was to be observed) and culminated on September 7, 1994 which is a very significant day in God's gospel plan (the first day of the seventh month of the Biblical calendar, a jubilee day in a jubilee year, *see Lev. 23:24; 25:10; Num 29:1*; the jubilee signifying the proclamation of liberty and returning to one's possession, which has everything to do with the proclamation of the gospel). This was accompanied by a second outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In **Daniel 8:18**, "set me upright," and **Daniel 10:11**, "stand upright," identifies with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the heralding forth of the true gospel by the true believers at the end of the 2,300 days, as we read in **Rev. 11:11**:

¹¹ And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

In **Rev 11:11**, when the Spirit of life from God enters into them and they stand upon their feet, the timing of this event coincided with the sounding of the ram's horn of the jubilee on the first day of the seventh month September 7, 1994 (a Jubilee year that took place once every fifty years beginning in 1407 BC when Israel entered the land of Canaan) in accordance with God's precise timeline. This final Jubilee proclamation of the gospel is in view in **Rev. 14:6-7**:

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

See also **Haggai 1:14**, **Ezekiel 39:29** and **Joel 2:28-ff** in regards to the second outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the great tribulation.

We see, therefore, that in **Matthew 25:5** when the ten virgins all slumbered and slept, it is a reference to the church age when God had not yet opened the understanding of the true believers to many very important and significant truths that we are learning about today. The statement of **Romans 13:11-12** and **1 Thes. 5:6-7** are both significant in this regard. **Romans 13:11-12**:

¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

MATTHEW 25:6 "AND AT MIDNIGHT THERE WAS A CRY MADE, BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH; GO YE OUT TO MEET HIM."

This verse represents a transition from the church age to the beginning of the great tribulation period that officially began May 21, 1988. This period identifies with night time because it signifies the beginning of God's judgment process in which God loosed Satan and withdrew his Holy Spirit from the churches. This period is a preparation for judgment as we read in **1Peter 4:17**: "for the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." **Mark 13:35**:

³⁵ Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at **midnight**, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

At the beginning of the great tribulation, Christ came and removed the candlestick from every local congregation as he had warned in **Revelation 2:5**:

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

At the beginning of the great tribulation, God began to separate the wheat (wise virgins) from the tares (foolish virgins) and opened the seventh seal (**Rev. 8:1**) to give understanding to the true believers (wise virgins) of many Biblical details concerning the timing of the end and the nature of God's judgment process (**Ecc. 8:5**) which were previously not understood.

Please note the cry that is made: "**Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.**" The question must be raised: How can this be possible unless the true believers know something about the timing of Christ's return? This verse would make no sense at all unless the true believers were given specific time information. This verse is one of the proof texts that God will reveal specific time information to the believers at this time, because how else can they be heralding forth the cry that the return of the bridegroom is imminent and that the time has come to go out to meet him. Please note the emphasis, "go ye out to meet him." This is a reference to the command of God that the true believers must depart out of the local congregations:

Luke 21:21: "Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto."

Revelation 18:4: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

MATTHEW 25:7-10 "THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS AROSE, AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. AND THE FOOLISH SAID UNTO THE WISE, GIVE US OF YOUR OIL; FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GONE OUT. 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."

In verse 7, the word "trimmed" in the original Greek is translated elsewhere in the Bible as "garnished" or "adorned." All those virgins arose and "trimmed" or "garnished" or "adorned" their lamps. Of course, the foolish virgins have no oil for their lamps as indicated in verses 8-9. The Bible teaches in **Psalm 119:105**:

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." However, without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the lamp will not give light.

Sadly there are many in the churches that recognize that God has departed from the churches and yet in spite of everything they cling to their church nevertheless, unwilling to abandon it. Yet they want to be identified with Christ as indicated by the foolish asking the wise virgins for their oil. Another verse that gives the same sense is **Isaiah 4:1**:

¹ And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

The seven women are a veiled reference to the churches which are filled in large part with foolish virgins (tares). They take hold on one man – that's the Lord Jesus Christ – and want to be called by the name of Christ, and yet they want to eat their own bread and wear their own apparel, which is language that signifies that the churches want their own kind of a works-grace gospel where their work can contribute to their salvation. Similarly, in **Matthew 25:9**, God gives us yet another significant clue in the phrase "**go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.**" The reference to buying and selling reminds us of **Isaiah 55:1-3** where we read:

¹ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

³ Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

In other words, to buy or sell has to do with sharing the gospel, which is the bread of life, the life-giving water, the wine signifying the precious blood of Christ, and the milk of the word. God is using the language of merchandising in connection with sharing the gospel, even though God is emphasizing that the gospel is without money and without price. Now the pastors in the local congregations of today are also merchandising the gospel but **not** in the way that **Isaiah 55:1-3** is talking about. The pastors today are bringing a gospel based on man's work and are stealing that which rightfully belongs only to God. God makes reference to this in **Jeremiah 7:1-11**:

¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
² Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all *ye of Judah*, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.
³ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.
⁴ Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, *are* these.
⁵ For if ye throughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;
⁶ *If* ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:
⁷ Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.
⁸ Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.
⁹ Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;
¹⁰ And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?
¹¹ Is this house, which is called by my name, become **a den of robbers** in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

Note where their trust is in verse 4, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.

And yet God is saying in verse 8 that they are trusting in lying words, that cannot profit, and asks the question, Is this house, which is called by name, become a den of robbers? Christ quotes from Jeremiah 7 in 3 of the 4 gospels, which means that it is something very significant that God doesn't want us to miss. One such reference is **Luke 19:45-46**:

⁴⁵ And he went into the temple, and began to cast out them that **sold** therein, and them that **bought**;
⁴⁶ Saying unto them, It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it **a den of thieves**.

Now this sets the stage for what we read in **Revelation 13**, because there the Bible indicates that during the great tribulation, only those who have the mark of the beast can buy or sell:

¹⁶ And he [referring to Satan] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:
¹⁷ And that no man might **buy or sell**, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Putting all these passages together, we see that the churches have become a den of robbers in God's sight, and that only those who are under the power of Satan are able to buy or sell, that is, to bring the gospel within those congregations. How terrible! But this is what God is teaching. We therefore see in **Matthew 25:9-10** that when the 5 foolish virgins were told to go to them that sell and buy for yourselves, God is effectively saying, go to the churches where your trust is, and where those who have the mark of the beast are peddling their works-grace gospel that cannot save, and buy for yourselves, since that is where your trust is!

MATTHEW 25:10 "AND WHILE THEY WENT TO BUY, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME; AND THEY THAT WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE MARRIAGE."

The foolish went to buy, that is, they are trying to find the truth in the local congregation. While they were busy doing that the bridegroom came. They that were ready went in with him to the marriage. Who are they that were ready? They are the wise virgins, the true believers, of course. They are ready because they are watching, they are waiting, they are looking for his coming, and they are informed as to when he is coming. On the other hand, the foolish virgins are not ready. Their trust is in their church where they are taught that no man knows the day or the hour and that Christ will come as a thief in the night. They are in an environment where God is actively blinding them (**2 Thess. 2:11**) and they are under a strong delusion and they are not ready. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** is so comforting at this point, for it clearly indicates that the true believers will be ready and that Christ will not come upon them as a thief to destroy. In addition, note the admonition in verses 6-7 regarding sleeping:

- 1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
- 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
- 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
- 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
- 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

When the door is shut there is no longer any possibility of salvation. This reminds us immediately of **Genesis 7:16** where we read that Noah entered the ark and the LORD shut him in. When Christ shuts the door, no man may open that door (**Rev. 3:7**), but by the same token when Christ opens the door no man may shut it. That is why the time to cry to God for mercy is NOW while there is still time to do so. Today is still the day of salvation. Today the door is still open for those who will obey God's command to leave their church and cry for mercy. But sadly, on May 21, 2011, for all those whose trust was in their church, the door will be shut even as the LORD shut Noah and his family into the safety of the ark leaving all the unbelievers outside.

MATTHEW 25:11-12 "AFTERWARD CAME ALSO THE OTHER VIRGINS, SAYING, LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US. BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, I KNOW YOU NOT."

This is referring to the foolish virgins who are left behind on the day of judgment that is simultaneous with the rapture of the wise virgins on May 21, 2011. The door is shut. Those who are left behind are saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." Note that they calling Christ their Lord. There will be no atheists on May 21, 2011 because deep within the heart of man there is a knowledge that there is a God, and they will be experiencing the full wrath of God. **Matthew 7:21-23:**

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

MATTHEW 25:13 "WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YE KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEREIN THE SON OF MAN COMETH."

God here is inserting, as he does so frequently in the Bible, the command to watch, which is a study all by itself. To watch has to do with intently looking into the Bible to find anything and everything that the Spirit of Christ might reveal to us. We walk by faith; not by sight. Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **Matthew 24:42:**

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

⁴³ But 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.

In **Matthew 24:43**, the goodman of the house is the Lord Jesus. The Greek word *oikodespotes* is translated householder, goodman of the house, master of the house, and the context in which these words are used clearly indicates that Christ is in view. For example:

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain **householder**, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

Luke 13:25 When once the **master of the house** is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the **master of the house** being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Christ is the goodman of the house and the house that is in view are the true believers who are indwelt by the Spirit of Christ energizing them to watch, as we read in **Phil. 2:**

¹¹ Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

¹³ For it is God which worketh [Greek: energio, from which we derive our word 'energy' or 'energize' where energy is simply the capacity to do work] in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

We have the same teaching in **1 Peter 1:11**:

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The Spirit of Christ 'energizes' the true believer to look intently into the word of God to discern whatever truth God might give him and at the same time opens the understanding regarding the meaning of passages that heretofore have been sealed up. And since it is evidently God's will that the world be warned of judgment day, God opens the seventh seal and gives understanding to the true believers of the words that have been written in the Bible concerning the timing and character of the end (remember we learned this from the book of Daniel earlier in this study). That is why God refers to every true believer as a watchman (see **Ezekiel 3:17; 33:2,6,7**) whose job it is to warn the world that judgment day is almost here. And in so doing, Christ the goodman of the house will not allow his house (the true believers) to be broken up.

The true believers are ready because they are watching in obedience to the command of God and the indwelling unction of the Spirit of Christ who is both causing the believers to study the Bible very intently and at the same time illuminating their understanding to many truths concerning the end which had not heretofore been understood. The true believers have a deep trust that the Bible is the very word of God and have an intense desire to be obedient to it.

The phrase: "no man knows the day or the hour," is consistent with **Acts 1:7** which we looked at earlier. "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in his own power." However God changes the times and the seasons (**Daniel 2:21**) and there would come a time when the truths concerning the end would be unsealed (**Daniel 8:18-19; 10:11; 12:4,9; Rev. 5:1-9; Rev. 8:1**). The phrase: "no man knows the day or the hour," is analogous to the following statement. "There is none righteous, no, not one," that we read in **Romans 3:10**. Such statements must be conditioned by anything and everything else in the Bible that might relate. In our natural unsaved and unregenerate condition, there is none righteous. But we also know that if we belong to Christ, that is, if Christ was made to be sin for us, then we have become the righteousness of God in him (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). So likewise for the first 13,000 years of earth's history, no man could know the day or the hour. But that didn't mean we would never know. That is why Christ constantly admonishes us to watch. He knew that at the appointed time he would make this information available to the true believers.

That this is so is taught, for example, in **Rev. 3:3**:

³ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

This verse teaches that for those who are not watching, Christ will come as a thief and they shall not know the hour (or the time) of Christ's return. This implies that those who are watching shall know the hour, or the time, when Christ will come. For them, Christ will not come as a thief. We can also view this from the perspective of **Ecclesiastes 8:5**:

⁵ Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

The words 'time' and 'hour' are used interchangeably in the Bible. For example, the Greek word *hora* translated as 'hour' in **Rev. 3:3** is translated 11 times as 'time'. In addition, the day of judgment is frequently referred to simply as "the day" or "that day". Therefore, to discern both time and judgment is equivalent to discerning both the hour (time) and the day (judgment). In other words, time and judgment are equivalent to day and hour. The true believers discerneth both time and judgment, or equivalently, both the day and the hour. They are given this knowledge concerning the timing of the end in order to warn the world and as a means to save a great many people, even as God saved a great many in Nineveh when Jonah came with a precise time when destruction would come and that message was used of God to instill fear into them.