

The AWAKENING

by
Jim Sayles



“In our hearts, Lord, in this nation
Awakening
Holy Spirit we desire
Awakening”
(From “Awakening” by Hillsong)

Each time I hear “Awakening” by Hillsong I experience a deep anguish and longing in my spirit for the awakening of the body of Christ at large so that we might manifest the unified fullness and glory of Jesus Christ in a dark world.

Yet, a general end time awakening of the entire body of Christ is highly improbable from a natural point of view, and in thirty-five years of seeking His absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, promises, and commands I cannot recall hearing or reading a message by any prophet, pastor, or teacher confirming a partially fulfilled prophecy given by the Lord that reveals a unique spiritual AWAKENING to be experienced by the entire regenerated body of Christ prior to His return.

Yet, that message, in response to the disciples’ question, **“When will these things happen, and what will be the signs of your coming and the end of the age?”** is clearly revealed in the Olivet prophecy recorded in Mark 13, Luke 21, and Matthew 24 and 25.

How, then, has this prophetic event in our immediate future been missed, and how will it be fulfilled?

What we have heard instead in the modern, western church is that we must maintain our readiness, because the Lord can come at any time. That message taught for the last 150 years, though, has not sparked a general revival in the body of Christ, much less an AWAKENING.

It is true that we should maintain our readiness, but not because the Lord can come at any time. That specific part of the message is in complete denial of the truth revealed in the words of the Lord Himself detailing events that must take place before His return.

The true message, the message we have not heard, revealed by the Lord in the Olivet prophecy, and verified throughout both the OT and the NT, is quite different.

In the parable of the ten virgins, illustrating specific details of the Olivet prophecy, the Lord gives us a synopsis of the entire church age with emphasis on what will happen in the end time immediately prior to His return.

These details include a church-wide spiritual awakening that takes place at some point immediately prior to, or immediately after the opening of the 4th seal (Revelation 6:7,8) and continues all the way through the 6th seal, all of which is identified by the Lord as an unspecified length of time known as “tribulation.” (Matthew 24:9-13)

Dispensational eschatologists, responsible for teaching and promoting the doctrine of a pre-tribulation “rapture,” do not expect an “awakening,” because it is their belief that it will be a FAILED church that will be taken out of the world so that God can restore national, ethnic Israel to covenant status.

And a “failed” church is not an “awakened” church.

The following is a quote from pages 48-49 of Charting the End Times by Dr. Tim LaHaye, a well-known dispensational author:

“The apostles repeatedly warned believers to be on guard against doctrinal defection or apostasy. That we have so much defection today is a clear sign that we are in the end times.

“Even though the New Testament doesn’t give specific prophecies concerning the church age, we have three sets of passages that paint a general picture of the course of this age. All three indicate that apostasy will characterize Christendom during the time that the rapture takes place.”

Dr. LaHaye’s absurd statement that the New Testament doesn’t give specific prophecies concerning the church age, though he quotes numerous New Testament texts out of context to support the pre-trib “rapture” theory, should alert the reader just how deceived the dispensational doctrine really is, and his

belief that it will be an apostasy-ridden, failed church that the Lord will carry away in glory before “tribulation” on the basis of a promise applicable only to the end time Philadelphian type of church, an overcoming church that has endured extreme tribulation, is pathetic beyond further comment.

And WHO do you think might want the church to be discouraged by the false prophecy that the church will fail in its commission, a commission given to us to the end of the age?

I promise you, it is NOT the Lord.

What IS coming instead of a pre-tribulation “rapture” is the spiritual awakening of every regenerated member of the body of Christ as the Holy Spirit arouses us out of our current state of somnolence with His announcement, an announcement that will be shouted into our spirits like a shofar blast from the watch tower wall, “***BEHOLD! The bridegroom cometh.***” (Matthew 25:6 KJV)

This is the MOST important end time event yet to come for the true church prior to the return of the Lord. But this MAJOR end time event is almost unknown, unrecognized, and unexpected by the very generation of the body of Christ who will experience it.

Our response to the Holy Spirit’s announcement is also prophesied:

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. Matthew 25:7 KJV

Pay attention. “All” means all. Every single regenerated, “born again” believer in Jesus Christ WILL be awakened spiritually by the knowledge that His return is imminent, but not immediate.

However, this announcement will NOT be heard in the spirits of nominal, but unregenerated men and women who claim to be believers in Jesus Christ.

Nor is His return for the purpose of “rapturing” away a failed church so that we will not have to experience tribulation..

What the parable demonstrates instead is an increasing division between the “wise” and the “foolish” virgins AFTER all the virgins respond to the awakening, and this increasing division between the “wise” and the “foolish” virgins of the true church ultimately results in the apostasy (rejection of faith) of the “foolish” during the great fight of faith that will take place during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of Revelation, identified by the Lord as “tribulation.”

But it does NOT result in the apostasy of the “wise.”

Therefore, the awakening, which will come during a MAJOR shaking of all that can be shaken, is to prepare the body of Christ for this rather lengthy fight of faith wherein we might appropriately imagine the Lord speaking in a thunderous voice, **“Arise, My beloved, and hearken to My voice as I prepare you for the refining fires of tribulation so that My church will glorify Me in the midst of the greatest evil this world will ever experience.”**

Therefore, the question we should be asking is, “IF this is true, WHY hasn’t the body of Christ been generally aware of this astonishing event in our immediate future?”

The fact that most have not heard or received this message is, strangely enough, PROOF that it is true, and the obvious reason that we are not generally aware of it is that at this present time we ARE the prophetic sleeping virgins who became “drowsy” and fell asleep when He tarried.

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”
Matthew 25:5 KJV (emphasis is the author’s)

Another question we should be asking is why is this event almost totally absent from the pulpits of our church fellowships and from the proliferation of books, articles and websites adding daily to the weight of presumption and deception concerning end time biblical prophecy?”

The deeply disturbing answer comes from the Lord.

Immediately after Jesus gave the parable of the sower and the seed to the crowd, His disciples asked Jesus why he spoke in parables, and He gave them an answer that applies directly to the body of Christ today.

And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand. Matthew 13:11-13 Amplified

Although His disciples were still OT believers at the time, it was the Spirit who was “given” to them so that they were enabled to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. And in John 16:13 the disciples were told

that the Spirit of truth would be “given” to every single regenerated member of the body of Christ from Pentecost forward, so that we can be supernaturally “guided” into all revelatory (spiritual) truth, including the truth about things to come.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth... and he will declare ...(reveal)... to you the things that are to come.”
(emphasis and insert is the author’s)

Why is it, then, that the vast majority of the true church of Jesus Christ is totally unaware of the revelatory meaning of the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-9) describing the great watershed event that will determine the fate of almost every believer reading this commentary?

Our unpleasant confession is that we have been blinded to this event by the father of lies, because the somnolent church has not paid attention to the Lord’s primary warning concerning the end times: ***“Do not be deceived.”***

Like the Pharisees of the Lord’s own day, we have trusted in our own intellects with very little awareness that the “Chessmaster,” Satan, works out his dialectical schemes on the chessboard of man’s spiritually prideful intellect. And, without the specific guidance of the Spirit of truth we WILL be deceived.

When I was still under the dark cloud of Dispensationalism and gave credence to the eschatological “authorities” at Dallas Theological Seminary I was surprised by their inability to derive any meaning from this parable other than the need to maintain our readiness because the Lord can come at any time.

These so-called “authorities” in the church have the power to “see” and the power to “hear” the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God in this parable, but through intellectual arrogance and non-revelatory tradition, they have not “seen” it or “heard” it, and the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven have not been revealed to them in this specific regard.

This partial blindness to the truth comes through powerful “strongholds” of deception deliberately and subtly introduced into the body of Christ by the father of lies through men and women who are or were, themselves, deceived.

In this regard, even though it includes my own confession of having been deceived in former years, I am sometimes cautioned by well-meaning friends that I should be gentler and more gracious in my exposure of those with godly reputations who promote and defend doctrines of demons, but I am already much gentler than Paul who says these men are hypocritical, pretentious “LIARS” who cause men to pay attention to and believe doctrines of demons that lead to **DEATH**.

BUT THE [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares...(and WARNS)... ***that in latter times some...***(Christians)...***will turn away from the faith...***(become apostate by)...., ***giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach....through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized),*** 1 Timothy 4:1,2 Amplified (inserts and emphasis are the author's)

And because the deceptive doctrine of demons called “Dispensationalism” has dominated eschatological teaching in the modern church, the truth has been veiled and hidden from most of the body of Christ so that we have not “heard” or “seen” the truth revealed in the parable of the ten virgins and elsewhere.

But the Spirit is deliberately exposing the source of our blindness at this very time as he “guides” many into the truth concerning the things that are to come in order to prepare a people for the return of the Lord.

In the parable we are told that ALL ten virgins, the unmarried kinsmen of the Bridegroom, with lamps full of oil and burning brightly, were waiting expectantly for the Bridegroom to come and lead them to His father's house for the marriage feast. But when the Bridegroom tarried ALL the virgins became drowsy and fell asleep.

This partially fulfilled parable is a perfect snapshot of the history of the church up to this present time.

If we had a heavenly perspective we might see a bright light shining in Jerusalem on the Pentecost that came fifty days after the Lord's resurrection on 16 Nissan, which was His fulfillment of the feast of “Firstfruits,” and during the historic days recorded in the Book of Acts we would see bright lights spreading from Jerusalem throughout Israel and the Middle East, into Turkey, Greece, and, eventually, Rome.

This spread of the kingdom of God, though, was not unopposed. The spiritual forces of wickedness, having usurped Adam's covenant right of dominion over the world, resisted the spread of the kingdom of God in the world at every turn.

The early church's spearhead for this warfare against the spiritual forces of wickedness in service to the great deceiver, the father of lies, was the apostle Paul, and it is primarily through the instruction given to him by the Lord that we ourselves are instructed to carry on this spiritual warfare today. (Ephesians 6:12-18 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

But the kingdom ground gained by Paul and the early disciples was largely taken back by the spiritual forces of wickedness by the 4th century.

Historically speaking, a major turning point in this warfare took place in 325AD at the time of the Nicene Council when the Roman emperor, Constantine, named Christianity as the state religion. But, in doing so, he also introduced the syncretic worship of other “gods” by establishing the Roman Catholic “holy” days of “Christmas” and “Easter” on days with pagan significance, and deliberately changing the day of Christian worship from the seventh or Sabbath day of the week to the first day of the week, the day upon which the Sun god was worshipped.

What ensued, as a result of the corrupt church coming under the rule of a politically motivated papal authority, is what is now known as the “dark ages,” and from a heavenly perspective there were only tiny pinpoints of light appearing here and there until the 16th century.

This was the time of deepest spiritual “sleep” for the virgins as the Roman Catholic Church literally made the written word of God illegal for all but the clerics of the church, even burning at the stake any who dared oppose this rule.

At the time of the Reformation in the 16th century, led by men like John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, and Jan Hus, the reformers broke away from the Roman Catholic Church, publishing Bibles in various languages and putting the written word of God back into the hands of the people.

From the heavenly perspective this could be seen as an awakening of sorts as lights began to come on all over Europe and into both the Middle East and Africa. But it was not THE awakening prophesied in the parable of the ten virgins, because THE awakening includes the astonishing event of an imminent, but not immediate, arrival of the bridegroom to the generation of virgins who literally hear the announcement in their spirits, ***“BEHOLD! The bridegroom cometh.”***

It was after the Reformation that the gospel message began to be carried in earnest to the entire world, and in the 18th century, with points of light on almost every continent, a “Great Awakening” took place in America and Great Britain, during which time many spectacular events, including the dead being raised to life, took place.

On one occasion the Holy Spirit fell upon a British navy ship passing twenty miles off the coast of Wales, and every man on board that ship fell to his knees in repentance without a single word being preached to them.

But this was not THE awakening. It was, instead, a great international revival, and from the heavenly perspective bright lights came on in the eastern states of America, in Great Britain, Europe, and elsewhere before they began to fade again.

Then, in the early 20th century the lights of the Charismatic renewal began to appear, and the belief among many Christians that the manifestation gifts of the Spirit had passed away was demonstrated to be a lie.

Origen was a Christian theologian in Alexandria, Egypt, and in his book, "Against Celsus," written in 250 AD, he described the manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit still appearing, but he also noted that they were beginning to diminish. This would seem to correspond with the Lord's prophetic parable of the ten virgins as He described the virgins, with lamps full of oil and burning brightly, becoming "drowsy" when the Bridegroom tarried.

Therefore, the seeming disappearance of the manifestation gifts from the Council of Nicea up until the "Great Awakening," then subsiding again until the Charismatic renewal, demonstrates that the manifestation gifts simply do not appear among those who are spiritually asleep or among those who are held captive by deception and unbelief.

But when genuine revival takes place they re-emerge.

Still, the Charismatic renewal, holding the truth concerning the manifestation gifts of the Spirit, but riddled with divisive false doctrines in many other areas, and particularly, false doctrines where biblical prophecy is concerned, is not THE awakening prophesied in the parable of the ten virgins.

It has been, and continues to be, merely a revival of the truth concerning the manifestation gifts of the Spirit and certain other areas of faith and truth.

But it is apparent that the church at large, divided into thousands of denominations and billions of rabbinic opinions concerning doctrine and practice, is not "hearing" and "seeing" the unifying secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of God that the Spirit of truth brings.

We have even come to believe that this is the norm and the intent of God for the remnant elect of Israel instead of admitting that what we are experiencing at this present time is not the full manifestation of the Lord's will for His church.

Watchman Nee, the primary founder of the underground house church movement in China, a widespread body of believers more awake than most, wrote a book titled, "The Normal Christian Life," in which he described "normal" as being the life of Peter, John, James, and Paul, and we should be aware that our particular denomination, sect, fellowship, and ourselves individually, are not, yet, living up to THAT standard of "normality."

After Jesus explained to His disciples why He spoke in parables, He quoted a prophecy given to Isaiah (Isaiah 6: 9,10) as the reason why the Israelites, other than the Lord's immediate disciples, did not have a revelatory understanding of the parables.

Although the quote from Isaiah's prophecy was directly related to national, ethnic Israel at that time, the Spirit of truth makes application both to national, ethnic Israel in the Lord's own day, and by implication to the future nation of God, spiritual Israel, who would become spiritually drowsy and fall asleep when He tarried.

For this nation's...(the nation of God)... ***heart has grown gross (fat and dull), and their ears heavy and difficult of hearing, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see and perceive with their eyes, and hear and comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp and understand with their heart, and turn and I should heal them.*** (insert is the author's)

What other reason can we give for the fact that the nation of God, the "Israel of God" in Christ, to whom the Spirit of truth was given for the purpose of "guiding" us into all truth, including the truth about things to come, does not recognize the truth about our current condition and does not even recognize that the Lord specifically prophesied the current status of the church in the parable of the ten virgins?

Because we have been "given" the ability to "see" and "hear" and understand the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of God through the presence of the indwelling Spirit of truth, it is almost impossible to misunderstand this parable.

BUT, because of the deceptions and lies of the enemy that have been introduced into the body of Christ over a long period of time, having become strongholds of TRADITION opposed to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God, many in the nation of God today have become "deaf" and "blind," not to all truth, or they would not still be participants in the body of Christ, but blind to certain areas of truth and, particularly, prophetic truth.

In the parable of the ten virgins the lamps represent the believers' souls, filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit, burning brightly with their faith-filled response to the revelatory truth, promises, and commands of the Lord.

Historically, this is a picture of the first days of the early church.

Then the Lord tells us a prophetic fact, currently fulfilled in the body of Christ today. Yet, because this shocking fact is a condemnation of our current status, almost NO institutional, denominational, theological, or pastoral authority in the church today will dare teach it.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.”
Matthew 25:1-5 KJV (emphasis is the author's)

Verses 1-5 of the prophecy have been fulfilled. And we know this is the present status of the church, because the next stage of this parable has not, yet, taken place.

And though this obviously does not mean that no actual ministry is taking place, or that certain individuals, ministries, and fellowships are not “awake” by comparison with the entire body of Christ, it is an indication that the current status of the church body at large is somnolent by comparison with the first days of the church when ALL the virgins were wide awake with lamps burning brightly.

The kingdom of heaven in the world IS the church, and all ten virgins, the entire corporate body of Christ in the beginning were expectantly awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom with their lamps burning brightly.

Then we are told that a divisive influence, separating the “wise” from the “foolish” entered in to the body of Christ, and that divisive influence among the “foolish virgins” is described as the failure to make provision for maintaining the oil of the Holy Spirit in their lamps.

And, without the oil of the Holy Spirit, we have no light.

Yet, when the Lord tarried, the ENTIRE body of Christ, not just the “foolish virgins,” became spiritually drowsy and fell asleep.

What the institutional church has not been willing to admit, and is therefore not teaching, is that we are now, and have been for some time, prophetically speaking, as a body...ASLEEP (by comparison with the first century of the church when the believers were wide awake with lamps shining brightly).

And, unwilling to confess our true status, we are also unwilling to receive the truth that there will also be a UNIVERSAL awakening of the church as all ten virgins, whether “wise” or “foolish,” hear the Holy Spirit's announcement, ***BEHOLD! The bridegroom cometh.***”

I have speculated elsewhere that this announcement will be accompanied by startling events in the world, such as the Gog-Magog war (Ezekiel 38 and 39) in which the Third Jihad of Islam attacks Israel and is wiped out by the supernatural intervention of God in a single day.

But regardless of the external events in the world, the announcement itself will be heard in the spirits of every single born-again, regenerated believer in the

body of Christ no matter what their age or where they live, and the external events, demonstrable in scripture, will confirm what we receive in our spirits.

I have also compared this AWAKENING blast of the Holy Spirit's shofar to the 4:30 am wake up call given to new U.S. Marine Corps recruits on the first day of boot camp as the Drill Instructor shouts, "ATTEN-HUT!" and then begins tossing bunks and lockers like a tornado of starched, olive drab mayhem shouting, **"Wake up you sleepy-heads! All hell is about to break loose, and you are NOT ready for it!"**

The vast majority of sleeping virgins, in complete denial of their current status, will not expect this event. It will shake them to the core, and, as we scramble to our feet, fully alert in whatever emergent events are taking place in the world at the time, we will begin to trim the wicks of our lamps so that we are prepared, not only to meet the Bridegroom and go with Him into the Father's house for the marriage feast, but prepared for the fight of faith that will take place during the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of Revelation before we meet Him in the air on the last day.

This time of spiritual refinement and the testing of our faith after the awakening event is an unspecified length of time identified by the Lord as "tribulation." (Matthew 24:9-13)

"Tribulation" is NOT seven years. The concept of a seven year tribulation was introduced through a false interpretation of Daniel's seventy weeks by dispensationalist, Sir Robert Anderson, in 1897, before that particular prophecy was unsealed by the Spirit of truth. (See Daniel 12:4)

"Tribulation" is an unspecified length of time, and I am absolutely certain that we will ultimately wish that it was only seven years long.

The fact that most western world believers are falsely expecting to escape tribulation, though the Lord told us specifically that we will experience tribulation, is a major deception currently promoted by those who were given the power of "hearing" and the power of "seeing," but neither "hear" nor "see" the truth in this regard.

What we are told in the Olivet prophecy and the parable of the ten virgins is that during tribulation the "foolish" will ultimately reject their faith in Jesus Christ because of trouble, persecution, and intense deception by the satanically empowered false prophets of the Harlot church, and their fate is the most tragic imaginable.

The "wise" virgins, though, will repent of worldliness, repent of false doctrines and false, idolatrous practices, enduring and persevering in tribulation in response to the Lord's commands as given to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3.

These seven churches were literal churches in Asia Minor (Turkey) at that time, but they represent seven types of the church throughout history. The proof that the message is specifically and primarily intended for the end time church undergoing tribulation is in the Lord's promise to the Philadelphian church, the church of brotherly love, heavily persecuted during tribulation.

“Because you have kept My word about patient endurance... (during tribulation, the 4th through the 6th seals of Revelation)... I will keep you from... (being harmed by)... the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world... (the 7th seal of “great tribulation”)”

Revelation 3:10 ESV

“Great tribulation,” identified as the 7th seal of Revelation, is clearly distinct from “tribulation,” identified by the 4th, 5th, and 6th seal events. These “wise virgins” of the Philadelphian church, then, will escape the 3.5 years of “great tribulation,” but not by removal from the earth. These, having endured the trials and testing of the 4th, 5th, and 6th seals of “tribulation,” will be sealed and redeemed as “firstfruits unto God and the Lamb” (Revelation 14:4) immediately prior to the opening of the 7th seal as the metaphorical 144,000, the perfection of spiritual Israel, the “Israel of God” in Christ.

The OT event typifying the experience of the 144,000 “wise virgins” is the story of the Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, as “God.” And when Nebuchadnezzar had them thrown into the fiery furnace (prophetically typifying “great tribulation”) they were not only unharmed, but the Lord Himself was in the furnace with them.

The parallel for those who refuse to worship the Antichrist, king of spiritual Babylon, as “God,” is unmistakable.

The literal number of those who are sealed and redeemed at that time, though, will be in the MILLIONS. And it is these, then, the entire company of spiritual Israel who have endured the fiery trials and testing of their faith during “tribulation”, who will bring in the harvest of an uncountable number of tribulation saints from every nation, tribe, and tongue during the 7th seal events of “great tribulation.”

You can imagine, then, WHY Satan does not want the church to receive this truth and why he has been working diligently for almost two millennia to keep it hidden from us.

“Wise” or “foolish,” the awakening announcement, spoken into the heart of every member of the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, and accompanied by the

shaking of all that can be shaken, which the Spirit of truth revealed to Jeremiah as “the storm of the Lord,” is close at hand.

The “foolish” and the unbelievers will be unprepared for both the storm and the awakening, and their response to both will be inadequate. But the “wise” will begin seeking His wisdom in preparation for both.

Be, therefore, “wise,” because dark storm clouds are gathering on the prophetic horizon. And, as a body, we are NOT ready.

To examine this prophecy in full context see: **The Olivet Prophecy; The Latter Rains; The Prophetic Parable of the Ten Virgins; REVELATION: The Lord’s Letter to the End Time Church**, and **The 144,000**.