

In preparation for the Ten Virgins and Talents parables it is important to understand the context of these chapters so as to better understand the meaning of the text.

Chapter 24 starts the Olivet Discourse- series of teachings on the Mount of Olives. His subject is the end times and the signs of the end of the age (v.14) In response to verse 2, the disciples still don't fully understand that the kingdom of God is in their midst, and still are waiting for it to come. They are waiting for Jesus to make his claim as the Messiah, the one who will overthrow the Roman tyranny and re-establish their freedom as a nation. This was their view of what the kingdom was about.

In order to understand this passage a few key words or phrases must first be decoded. It is in these words that I believe the following teachings and parables find their meaning.

Temple destruction (v.2)-

Tribulation (v.9)-

False Prophets (v.11)-

Gospel of the kingdom (v.14)-

End will come (age) (v.14)-

What is the Abomination of Desolation (v.15)-

When does the tribulation occur (v.29)-

When does the Son of Man return (v.31)-

Generation (v.34)-

Matthew 25

Parable of the Ten Virgins:

What time frame does it take place in? In reality? And in the story?

Who do the virgins represent?

(if God, then the virgins would represent the Jews. If Jesus, the virgins represent his disciples, i.e. those who believe in him.)

(24:42-44 are a precursor to the parable of the ten virgins.)

Parable of the Talents:

Who is the man going on the journey?

Who do the servants represent?

What do the talents represent?

What is the glory that the Son of Man comes into (v.31)

What is the Son of Man's throne (v.31)