

The key to the Ten Virgins parable:

“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. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 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. 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. 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. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 25:1–13

The lamp is the Word (Psalm 119:105 "NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.") –Remember, the Torah was the "word" King David referenced. He wrote about the Torah and his love for the law of YHWH particularly in Psalms 119.

The Oil is the Spirit of Truth (the Comforter) that is given to those who receive Y'shua Messiah. (John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:")

Empty lamps cannot bear light.

It is not enough to have Torah (the instructions) you must also have the Spirit of Truth (the oil) only available by receiving Messiah.

On the flip side, it is not enough to claim Messiah, but ignore the Torah. He that claims to have the spirit, but doesn't keep the commandments is deceived. (1 John 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.")

Further evidence of the importance of the Torah in modern Messianic life is found examining the mark of the Beast versus the seal of YHWH. We know that the mark of the Beast is taken in the right hand or the forehead. But did you realize nothing Satan does is original? He is not creative but the great counterfeiter!

First let's take a look at what the Word says about the mark of the Beast:

Revelation 13:16, 17 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark^{G5480} in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark^{G5480}, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Strong's G5480

a scratch or etching, that is, stamp (as a badge of servitude), or sculptured figure (statue): – graven, mark.

What could he possibly be counterfeiting?

Let's take a look at just one example:

Exodus 13:3–18 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand YHWH brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.

This day came ye out in the month Abib. And it shall be when YHWH shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, and in the seventh day shall be a feast to YHWH. Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days; and there shall no leavened bread be seen with thee, neither shall there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters.

And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which YHWH did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it** shall be for a sign^{H226} unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that YHWH'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath YHWH brought thee out of Egypt.

Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year. And it shall be when YHWH shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, as he sware unto thee and to thy fathers, and shall give it thee, That thou shalt set apart unto YHWH all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be YHWH'S. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand YHWH brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that YHWH slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to YHWH all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

And it** shall be for a token^{H226} upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand YHWH brought us forth out of Egypt. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

Both “Sign” and “Token” are from the same Hebrew word:

Strong's H226

a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.: – MARK, miracle, (en-) SIGN, TOKEN.

What is this mark/sign/token setting us apart as belonging to YHWH?

** "IT" is the learning and doing of His Commands, such as the one we just read about (Passover) above. The learning and doing of these things, i.e. Observation of the Feasts of YHWH (Lev. 23) and His Sabbath as commanded to those who are His!

I believe that it IS the seal placed upon the obedient followers of YHWH and the oil that fills the lamps of the wise virgins who recognize their Messiah, their betrothed and DO His commands!

Do we see evidence of this in the New Testament? Yes we do!

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, **having this seal,^{G4973} The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Revelation 7:2, 3 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal^{G4973} of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed^{G4972} the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Revelation 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal^{G4973} of God in their foreheads.

Strong's 4973

a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication the stamp impressed (as a **mark** of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: – **seal**.

Strong's 4972

to stamp (with a signet or private **mark**) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to keep secret, to attest: – (set a, set to) **seal up**, stop.

By looking at the Greek words used in these verses, we see that “seal” and “mark” could be used interchangeably.

Why would the angels need to seal the servants? I believe it is because for over 1600 years we have inherited lies which have separated us from the seal of YHWH. Today the truth is beginning to spread throughout those who are seeking a genuine relationship with their Creator, awakening the remnant to the Truth. As we begin to purge ourselves from the Babylonian system we inherited from modern Christianity, we are sealed to Him.

Jeremiah 16:19-21 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods? Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is YHWH.

Is this to say all who have come before us, being raised in the traditions of men have missed salvation? That, happily, is above my pay grade. Our Heavenly Father in His wisdom and mercy alone can judge the living and the dead. I believe there is grace toward the ignorant. But for the shepherds who KNEW the truth and yet promoted idolatry: WOE to them! For they have led the sheep astray!

In conclusion:

Recognizing Messiah isn't enough. Following Torah isn't enough, one must Recognize Messiah AND obey His Instructions: His Torah! Shema: Hear and Do

*What must happen for the "then" to then come about? Let's read the verses just prior to it: Matthew 24:37-39

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Could it be, that because Christians have presented a Greek/Roman Jesus instead of the Hebrew, Jewish Y'shua that the Jews do not recognize their Messiah today? Or worse, because of the diversion created by Constantine away from their Hebraic roots, the early church succumbed to Rome's anti-semitic bias and has yet to recover, thereby alienating our Jewish brethren?

Once we return to the Hebraic roots of our faith, as well as recognizing ourselves that Y'shua was, is and shall ever be a Jewish High Priest and as such deserves to be presented so. Perhaps then and only then will our Jewish brethren have their eyes opened and welcome those of us who come in the name of YHWH and share the good news of their Mashiach Y'shua!

THEN Y'shua will come back! (Look at that last part "Ye shall not see me henceforth TILL ye say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.") He's waiting for the two olive branches (Ephraim and Menasseh) to be ready to be reunited as one! One house of Israel, One olive branch in the hand of our King!