

FAITH AND DEEDS

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FOREWORD

This book reminds us again that as children of God we are not enough to just believe, but need to do actions as a manifestation of our faith. Faith and deeds are inseparable alike the two sides of a coin. This means that faith cannot stand alone but must always be accompanied by or go along with deeds or actions as proof of what is believed.

In this book we will discuss about things related to the end times, the day of the second coming of the Lord Jesus. The major signs will be delivered briefly.

As a child of God, indeed, there is quite a lot of important preparation that we must do so that we are ready when Christ come to pick us up.

Finally, praise the Lord for His love that give us an opportunity to understand this very important topic. Hopefully, this book can be useful and encourages us to more seriously prepare ourselves for His second coming.

Soli Deo Gloria,

The Writer

FAITH and DEEDS

Every time the writer holds a seminar on the end times, during the question and answer session some questions were often raised which basically led to one big question, namely *“Is it true that we are now living at the time when the coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent?”*

If time allows, the writer usually tries to clarify by asking back to the participants of the seminar, *“When Jesus was born, does anyone know that a Jewish king was born?”* The answer the writer got was, *“The Magi did”*.

How did the Magi know? They knew since they saw His star in the East. How many stars were there in the sky at that time? **Only one.** At His first coming on earth to become a human being, the Lord gave a sign in the sky in the form of a star in the East.

Who were those Magi? Some theologians presumed that they were astronomers or scientific observers of the celestial

bodies. Yet there were also others who presumed them either as kings, princes, or nobles of some dominions. Speaking of the phenomenal star in the East seen by the Magi, it is very likely that the star was also recognized or seen by many people, could be by dozens even hundreds or thousands of people. Therefore, the writer would put those people into 3 main groups.

Three Main Groups

The first, those who did not believe

They who belonged to this *first group* did not believe that the star in the East was a sign marking the birth of a king of the Jews. To them the star in the East was only an ordinary star with a bit of uniqueness but had nothing to do with the birth of a Jewish king.

The second, those who solely believed

They who belonged to this *second group* believed that this star in the East was a sign marking the birth of a king of the Jews, but they did nothing about it.

The third, those who believed and acted upon their belief

They who belonged to this *third group* were represented by the Magi. Why were they supposed to have done something or acted upon what they believed? It was from the Bible, which said that they came from the East. Some theologians presumed the East mentioned in the Bible was Babylon, approximately 800 km from Jerusalem. At that time it was a 4 months journey. Even though those Magi knew that they had to take such a long exhausted journey to be able to meet this Jewish king, they persisted to steadily move on in their course of **actions upon their believe.**

As they believed, they also brought gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. Thus they trusted they would meet the King, and whenever they did see Him they intended not only to worship Him, but also to give offerings. And the Bible explained that of

those three groups only the third group, namely the Magi met the Lord Jesus, whilst the other two did not.

The Signs of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus



If the first coming of the Lord Jesus was marked by the sign in the sky in the form of a special star in the East, then what would be the signs related to His second coming later?

Acts 2:20 mentions about the signs, *“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come.”*

So, the second coming of the Lord Jesus would be marked by these phenomena: the sun will be turned into darkness or a solar eclipse would occur, and the moon into blood or a total lunar eclipse.

- 340 days →
- 267 days →
- 192 days →
- 177 days →
- 163 days →
- 162 days →
- 15 days →

2014		2015							2016		
Apr - 15	Oct - 08	Mar - 20	Apr - 04	Agt - 29	Agt - 30	Sep - 12	Sep - 13	Sep - 28	Dec - 12	Feb - 22	Feb - 23
Nisan 14	Tishri 15	Nisan 1	Nisan 14				Tishri 1	Tishri 15	Kislev 30	Adar 14	Adar 15
Passover	Tabernacles	1st Cal. Year	Passover				Trumpets	Tabernacles	Chanukah	Purim	Shushan Purim
				Stop Offering	Start Great Tribulation						
		1/1/6001				End Great Tribulation			Rapture		

2018							2019		
Jan - 31	Feb - 15	Jul - 12	Jul - 13	Jul - 26	Jul - 27	Agt - 11	Oct - 25	Jan - 05	Jan - 06
Shevat 15					Av 15				
Tu B'shvat					Tu B'av				
1st Calendar Year					Trumpets		Rapture		
	Passover	Stop Offering	Start Great Tribulation			Tabernacles			Shushan Purim

2019									
Jan - 21	Feb - 5	Jul - 2	Jul - 3	Jul - 16	Jul - 17	Agt - 1	Oct - 15	Dec - 26	Dec - 27
Shevat 15					Av 15				
Tu B'shvat					Tu B'av				
1st Calendar Year				End Great Tribulation	Trumpets		Rapture		
	Passover	Stop Offering	Start Great Tribulation			Tabernacles			

The picture above shows data of the year 2014 to 2019 that there would be **16 signs in the sky**, namely **7 total lunar eclipses** or commonly known as the **blood moon** and **9 solar eclipses**.

Those 16 eclipses were truly phenomenal, but there were more uniqueness in that all these eclipses occurred on the Israelite feast days. And those days also seem to have very close

relationship to the prediction or estimation of the Day Jesus would come again.

Hence for example, in the year 2014 there were 2 total lunar eclipses or blood moon occurred on the day of the Passover and at the Feast of Tabernacles. Then 3 eclipses took place at the beginning of the Jewish calendar year. The first one was a total solar eclipse on the 1st day of Nisan in 2015 and 2 total lunar eclipses on the 15th day of Shevat in the year 2018 and 2019. Further, there were 2 eclipses on the day of the Passover, which happened in the year 2015 (total lunar) and 2018 (partial solar). Then again 2 eclipses occurred at the Feast of Trumpets in the year 2015 (partial solar) and 2018 (total lunar). There were also 2 eclipses at the Feast of Tabernacles in the year 2015 (total lunar) and 2018 (partial solar). Then there was one eclipse at the Feast of Purim in Shushan early in the year 2019 (total solar) and there would be another one at the Feast of Purim in late 2019.

Besides those ones, there were also 3 other eclipses which would occur in the days we presumed related to the end times. In the book ***The Sky Signs of The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus***, first printing in 2013, we assumed April 29, 2015 as the day the daily sacrifice would be abolished. In fact at that time there was no sign at all in the sky, yet the sky signs presumed to be seen on that day would occur in the year 2019 (July 2). Then on the day of the onset of the severe persecution or great tribulation in 2015 there were no signs at all, yet later it turned out that there was a sign of a partial solar eclipse in 2018. Likewise on the last day of the great persecution/tribulation there was no sign in the sky in the year 2015, yet later it turned out there was a sign of a partial lunar eclipse in 2019.

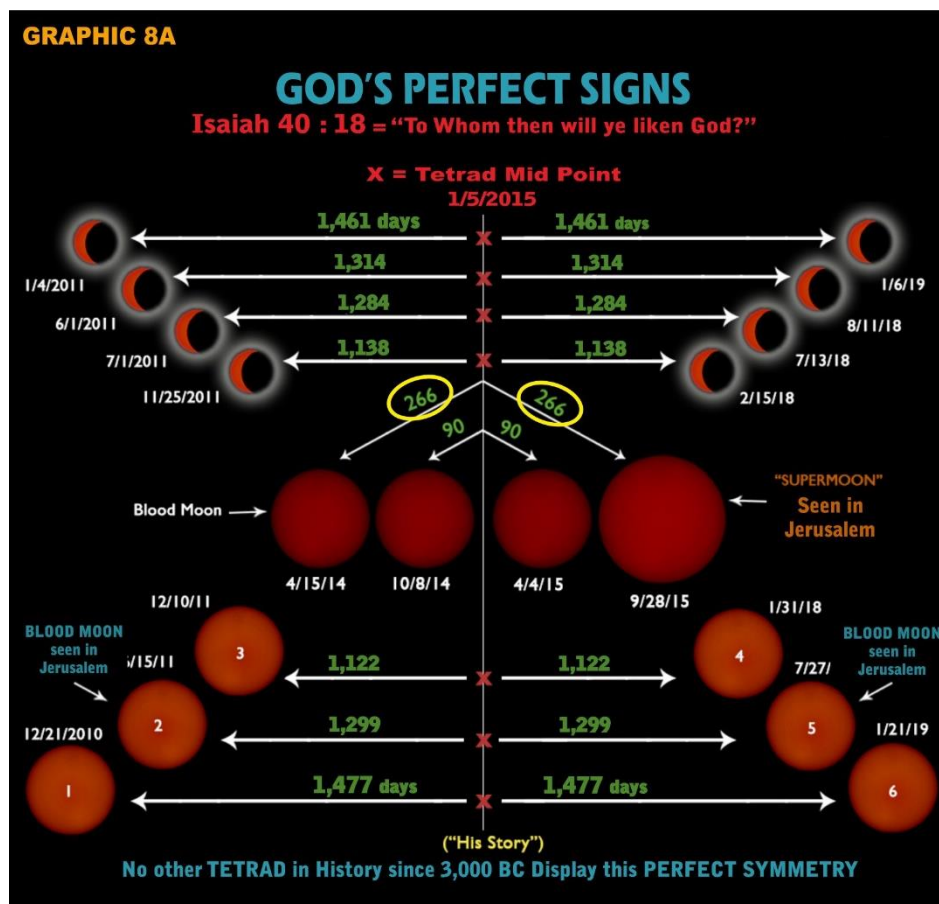
In the writer's book entitled ***The Rapture*** it is also explained that the eclipses occurred in the year 2015 turned out to have the same interval of days as the ones occurred in 2018. So, from the total solar eclipse on March 20, 2015 to the total lunar eclipse on April 4, 2015 there was a difference or an interval of 15 calendar days or 14 days according to the Jewish calendar. In

fact, the total lunar eclipse on January 31, 2018 to the partial solar eclipse on February 15, 2018 also has an interval of 15 days. Then the interval of days between the total solar eclipse on March 20, 2015 and the partial solar eclipse on September 13, 2015 is the same as between the total lunar eclipse of January 31, 2018 and the total lunar eclipse on July 27, 2018 which is 177 days. Likewise, the interval of days between the total solar eclipse on March 20, 2015 and the total lunar eclipse on September 28, 2015 is the same as the interval of days from the total lunar eclipse on January 31, 2018 to the partial solar eclipse on August 11, 2018 at the Feast of Tabernacles, which is 192 days.

Also in the book ***God's Perfect Signs in The Sky***, it is explained that the 4 total lunar eclipses occurred sequentially (blood moon tetrad) in 2014-2015 all took place at the national feast days of Israel, namely at the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles in the year 2014 and 2015 and statistically such formation of eclipses would occur only once (1 time) in a period of $1,8 \times 10^{139}$ days. What does 10^{139} mean? One million has 6

zeros or we can say 10^6 . One billion has 9 zeros or 10^9 . One trillion has 12 zeros or 10^{12} . So 10^{139} has 139 zeros. Thus such phenomenal formation of eclipses happens very, very rare. Actually the eclipses occurred in the year 2014-2015 and the ones before or after them had perfect symmetrical formations. If we draw a midpoint or midline, then all the eclipses on the left had the same interval of days as their matching pair on the right.

There is no difference at all!



The total lunar eclipse on April 15, 2014 and the total lunar eclipse on September 28, 2015 had the same interval of days, namely 226 days from the midline of January 5, 2015. Likewise the partial solar eclipse on November 25, 2011 and its matching pair the eclipse on February 15, 2018 had the same interval of 1,138 days from the midpoint. Also the partial solar eclipse that occurred on July 1, 2011 and the partial solar eclipse on July 13, 2018, had the same interval of 1,284 days, and so on.

The Day of the Coming of the Lord Jesus

In his first letter to the Church in Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul reminded that:

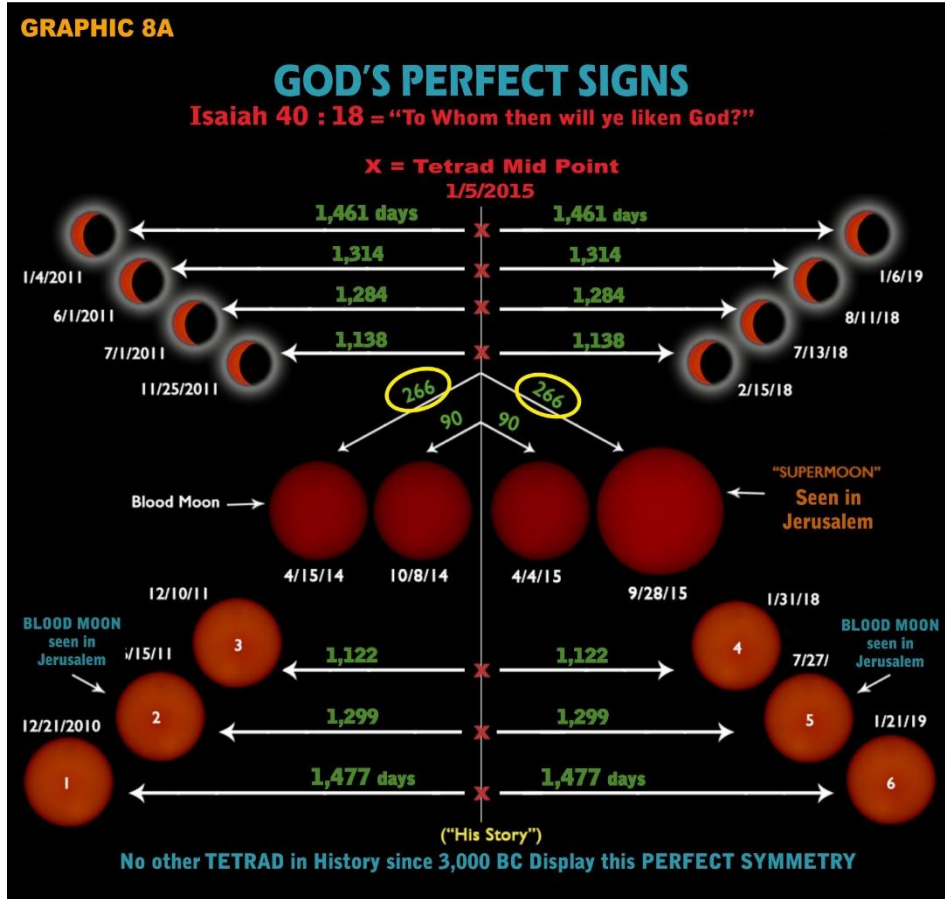
*”For when they shall say, **Peace and safety**, then **sudden destruction** cometh upon them, as **travail upon a woman with child**; and they shall not escape.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

The verse above explains that the end of the age when the Lord Jesus is to come again would take place while the world seems safe and peaceful. Thus it would not occur during World

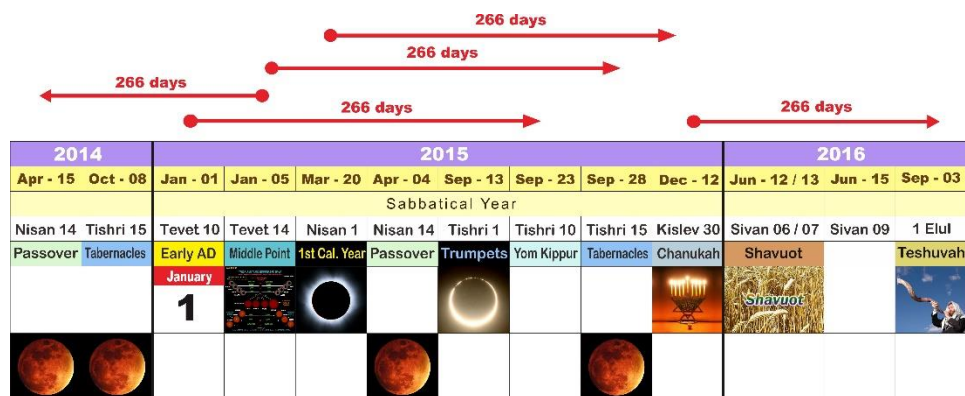
War III or other devastating warfare. But that safe and peaceful condition would suddenly turn into a great turmoil along with such severe persecution described as the travail or the labor pains of a pregnant woman who is about to give birth.

We know that before the delivery, a pregnant woman will experience sudden pains due to contractions before the baby is born. The time of the first contraction that occurs followed by other subsequent contractions can not be predicted, contrary to the time of the delivery which is usually medically predictable. When the writer's wife was pregnant with her first child, everything went fine even to the time about the delivery. Both then went for a walk to the supermarket, but suddenly his wife got the first contraction of travail (birth pains).

In Medical Science, it is stated that the normal gestation or pregnancy period lasts 226 days and God had shown this number 266 many times through various ways and situations.



In the picture above, it can be seen that from the midpoint (midline) to the blood moon on April 15, 2014, there is an interval of 266 days as well as its matching pair, the blood moon on September 28, 2015.



Then from January 1, 2015 to the Day of Yom Kippur on September 23, 2015 there were 266 days. From the first day of Nissan to the Feast of Hanukah on December 12, 2015 and also from the Feast of Hanukah to the Feast of Teshuvah on September 3, 2016 each had an interval of 266 days.

Another very interesting issue is that the present Pope in the Vatican, namely Pope Franciscus is the 266th Pope. And in the writer's book ***Is Chip the Fulfillment of 666*** it is mentioned that based on the Prophecy of St. Malachy, the 266th Pope would be the last pope ever exists. In addition, Pope Franciscus met with President Obama on September 23, 2015 in the White House which took place exactly on the 266th day of the year.

Then the Bible also explains that in the last days when the coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent earthquakes would occur in various places.

Mark 13:8 *“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **earthquakes in divers places**, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.”*

We know that these days many earthquakes occur around the world. In Indonesia almost every day earthquakes happen. The writer himself downloads the application under the subject of *earthquake* and actually every day about 40-50 events of earthquakes are recorded, measuring 4.00 or beyond on the Richter scale.

By observing all the explanations and various phenomena the writer presented above so as not lose our focus in this writings, let us return to the original topic or subject of discussion, namely: *“Is it true that we are now living at the time when the coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent?”*

Three Main Groups of People Which Represent Us All

First, the group of unbelievers

According to them, we do not live in the end times before the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus. To them the 16 signs in the sky in the form of eclipses described previously are just common natural phenomena.

Second, the group of people who believe that we live in the end times before the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus, but do not act upon their belief or do not make any preparations.

Third, the group who believe and act upon it.

Either we believe or not, act upon it or not, still the day would come when the Lord Jesus would return. There is a sticker that reads, "**Ready or not, Jesus is coming!**", but the effects would certainly be very different on those who do prepare themselves for that day to come and on those who do not. For example, if an earthquake happens it would hit all the three main groups, whether they believe or not and also whether they prepare themselves or not.

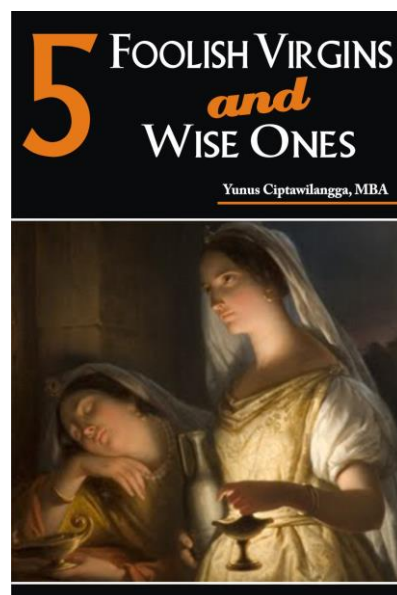
We certainly understand that the consequences to each of them might be different. Those who believe and take actions or do something upon it, when they get the opportunity to build a house, they would build an earthquake resistant one, and know where to take shelter whenever an earthquake occurs. They also would always have ready-made food, first aid kits, water

reserves, tissues and other necessities, so that when the disaster strikes, they would be better prepared to deal with it.

Such would be the situation when the Lord Jesus comes. They who do not believe and who believe but do not prepare themselves, very likely would experience more severe adversities than those who believe and act upon it or prepare themselves for this momentous event to come.

Hence, if we want to act, what should we do? What kind of actions or deeds are proper?

**The Parable of the Ten Virgins:
*Five Were Foolish and Five Were Wise***



In the parable about The Ten Virgins: Five were foolish and five were wise. The Lord Jesus clearly explained that this parable was related to the situation at the end times before the coming of the Lord Jesus. When the Lord Jesus described the characteristics and the signs of His coming to His disciples, He said, “*Then ...*”, or “*At that time ...*” (NIV)

Matthew 25:1, “*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*”

When The Coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent, the Kingdom of Heaven and how to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven is illustrated with the 10 virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. This means that those 10 virgins depict God's children who could be recognized as each of them carried a lamp to welcome the bridegroom. But the 10 virgins were divided into 2 groups since in the following verses we read that 5 of them were foolish while the other 5 were wise. What were the foolish ones like? They carried their lamps but

took no oil with them, whereas the wise ones carried their lamps and took spare oil in their vessels with their lamps.

The lamp means the Word of God (Psalm 119:105) and the oil is used to keep the lamp burning.

Matthew 25:2 And the 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.

It was mentioned previously that the wise virgins were different from the foolish ones as the wise brought along some spare oil. Why should spare oil be very important at the end times when the coming of the Lord Jesus is imminent?

Daniel 11:32 can explain this.

*“And such as **do wickedly** against the covenant shall he **corrupt by flatteries**: but the people that **do know their God** shall be strong, and do exploits.”*

Or *“**With flattery** he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who **know their God** will firmly resist him.”*

(NIV)

The verse above explains that they who firmly hold on to their faith during the time of tribulation and affliction are those who do know their God or those who take spare oil to keep the lamp burning. Why would knowing their God become the key of their survival? Since the previous verses explain that at that time many false prophets would appear to lead the children of God astray so that those among them without adequate knowledge of their Bible would be easily persuaded and then turn away from God.

Hence to be able to stand firm at the end times before the second coming of the Lord Jesus, we need to know our God. How can we know our God? *First*, we should listen to sermons.

Do we always prepare ourselves before we go to the worship service: our hearts and minds, so that we would be able to focus on listening to the word of God being preached, and try to understand? Or, do our minds wander everywhere? Or, perhaps we doze off and even fall asleep amidst the worship service? *Second*, do we everyday have a quiet time and read our Daily Devotional and have a Family Altar? *Third*, do we often listen to sermons on television, radio, or YouTube? *Further*, do we read the Bible diligently and routinely? *Finally*, do we apply God's word in our daily lives? Why is it very important to do or to put into practice the word of God? The Lord Jesus clearly explained the reason, “*But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*” (Luke 6:49)

When we do or act upon the word of God, we will see the truth of God's word. These experiences will deepen our understanding and strengthen our faith that His word is amen and amen, and become our source of strength, so we would not

be easily led astray. We would then be able to maintain our faith even amidst severe persecution.

Last year, the writer has read the entire Bible twice plus the New Testament 3 times and also 3 times from the book of Romans to the book of Revelation. The writer is accustomed to reading the Bible without overlooking either one chapter, one verse, or even one word, because each word definitely conveys some meaning. Why does the writer love reading that much? Since he wants to know more of God, to have deeper knowledge about God and gain life experiences in doing God's word, making practice of it. In addition, the writer is also eager to know the truth of God's word so as not easily be led astray by false teachings. For example, today there are teachings which say that what God wants most in our lives is to serve Him. That is why many of God's children busy themselves with doing ecclesiastical or church activities. However in the passage about Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42, the Lord Jesus very clearly said that the best thing to do is *"sit at Jesus' feet, and hear His word."* For

more details, do read the writer's book on "**Becoming God's Son or God's Servant**".

Then verse 6 explained further, "*And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.*"

The Lord Jesus would come "*at midnight*", at the time of the severe persecution, the tribulation.

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

25:8 *And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.*

25:9 *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.*

25:10 *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.*

25:11 *Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord; open to us.*

25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

The verses above describe that when the Lord Jesus comes, **those who are ready would go in** with Him to the heavenly banquet or the Kingdom of Heaven, **then the door would be closed**. Thereafter the other girls came and tried to go in, but the door would not be opened. These issues explain that **the rapture will occur only once for us who are still alive**. And afterwards, there will be no other rapture. Those who are ready will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, those who are not ready will be left behind and undergo the desperation of the cup of God's wrath, then go to hell.

In the previous verse we read that the foolish virgins said, **“our lamps are gone out.”** - what does this mean? The lamps which are or almost gone out depict a wicked life.

Proverbs 13:9 *“The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.”*

Proverbs 24:20 *“For there shall no be reward for the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.”*

Job 18:5 *“Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.”*

Characteristics of the Wicked

The Bible explains much about the characteristics of the wicked. Here are only a few of them.

Psalm 1:1 *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”*

Who are the ungodly or the wicked? They are people who stand in the way of sinners. People whose daily lives are the same as sinners, even though they are God's children. If he is a businessman, he does business by cheating, diminishing or reducing the quality, manipulating, bribing, and other improper methods. If he is an employee, he accepts bribes, is corrupt, lazy, absent by lying. And if he is a student, he cheats a lot and

likes plagiarism, and also like to do inappropriate things with his friends.

Then the verse says, “*sitteth in the seat of the scornful*”. So they do not watch their speech. Their words are dirty, insulting, disparaging, gossiping, vilifying, cursing, similar to the worldly.

Psalm 119:155 “*Salvation is far from the wicked; for they seek not thy statutes.*”

These are some descriptions of God's children who do not maintain their salvation. When a person first repented he diligently went to church, but eventually did not go to church anymore. He used to be fervent in praying, yet in the long run he rarely prayed. He was active in the ministry, but finally did not serve anymore. He used to love reading the Bible, but now he never read it again. Why could it happen? Because they did not seek God's statutes. They were never serious about listening to God's word nor God's law, even less practicing it.

Psalms 119:53 “*Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.*”

Forsaking the Law of God means that the person understands, but he does not want to do or practice it. For example, as a child, we know we have to honor or respect our parents, but we do not want to do it. As husbands we know we must love our wives, but we do not want to do so. As wives, we know we must submit to our husbands and respect them, but we do not want to. As children of God, we know we have to help our relatives, but we do not want to. As children of God, we know that we have to make a living by legal jobs or lawful efforts in a proper way, yet we also do not want to do it. So, this is a matter of “*we do not want to*” rather than “*we do not know how to*”.

Proverbs 10:16 “*The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.*”

Hence, if we want to know whether we ourselves are wicked or not, one of the ways is by checking how we manage our money. Do we use our money for God's glory? Or, for things that lead us to sin?

Psalm 37:21 *“The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.”*

The wicked are people who like to borrow, but do not pay back. On the contrary, the righteous are compassionate and generous. Compassionate is loving, merciful, open-handed which means having the desire to help others, while generous is usually connected with our relationship to God. If we are close to God, naturally we are far from Mammon. To us this means that Mammon is not something exceptional and precious beyond anything to keep. Thus we can give offerings appropriately, pay our tithes, even support the ministry of God's work. But when we are close or tight to Mammon, which is when we start to be stingy, and consider money exceptional and very precious to keep, then at that time we are far from God. The Bible says that we cannot be close to both nor worship both. We can worship only either one. (Matthew 6:24)

Psalm 10:2 *“The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.”*

The wicked might be children of God, but they are cruel and deceitful.

Galatians 5:13 *“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*

These people confess that they are God's children yet think that sinning is no problem at all, for when they sin they can pray and just ask God for forgiveness, then the problem would be cleared up, their sin forgiven. They are of the opinion that whenever they sin again, they can simply ask God for forgiveness. So actually, they are children of God who still lead a worldly life.

Change from Foolish Virgins into Wise Ones

The parable of the five foolish virgins and the five wise ones very clearly depicts that the foolish ones were God's children who had limited knowledge of God's word and lived a wicked life.

They could not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven and would be left behind to experience desperation when God would pour out the cup of His wrath and thereafter cast them into hell.

Therefore if we believe that we are living in the last days before the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus, it is not sufficient if we only believe; we have to do something or act upon our belief to ensure ourselves as being the wise virgins. We have to seriously deepen our understanding of the word of God, act upon it, leave our wicked life to lead a holy one according to God's word, live righteously in the presence God. We should live righteously not only before man, but primarily before God, so that we can say, *"My life shines brightly before God."*

How can we change?

Perhaps the verses in Matthew about the magi or wise men can explain it.

Matthew 2:1 *"Now when Jesus was born in Betlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."*

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

These wise men saw the star in the East and they were convinced that a king of the Jews was born. That is why after seeing the star, those wise men went to Jerusalem. And not only to Jerusalem, but also to the king's palace. Since the new born king was expected to be a great king, whose birth was marked with a special star in the East, so logically he must be born in the king's palace. But when they met Herod, apparently he knew nothing about it and he said that there was no Jewish king being born, and we know that Herod then asked the chief priests and scribes whereabout the king of the Jews was born. They told him that He was to be born in Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:5 “...and they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”

Then in the next verse Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem to look for and find the child.

Matthew 2:8 *“And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.”*

Actually the Magi had enough reason to stop searching for the child and did not go to Bethlehem. Why? *First*, because it did not make sense that a great Jewish king would not be born in Jerusalem. *Second*, even if they went to Bethlehem, they would not find any palace there. So, how could a great king not be born in a palace? *Third*, even if they went to Bethlehem, how could they find him? Since Bethlehem was a town, should they search from house to house? And even if they could find him, the host might not tell them. However, in verse 9 we read,

Matthew 2:9 *“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.”*

*“When they had heard the king, **they departed.**”* Hence they still went to the town of Bethlehem. Why did they? They did it because they believed that that star in the East was the sign of a king’s birth and they really longed to meet him. **And after they decided to leave, incredible events happened,** as we can read in the following verse,

*“And, lo, **the star,** which they saw in the east, **went before them,** till it came and stood over where the young child was.”*

Amazingly, when they decided to keep searching, God **moved the star** to lead those Magi to meet the Lord Jesus. That is, when they not only believed but **also acted** upon their belief, **God immediately reacted by moving the star.**

Faith and deed or action are inseparable entities. We may not know how we can leave our wickedness. But God does not require us to think or fret about how to do it, because God Himself will make the ways to complete it for us.

In the past when the writer intended to pay his tax accurately, he did not know how to accomplish it since according

to the tax regulation at that time it was difficult to be carried out. The opportunity occurred when the government issued the "Tax Amnesty". However, at that time the company's financial audit board stated that if he would pay his taxes accurately, he had to shut-down half of his restaurants. But apparently God opened the way and nothing wrong happened. Yes, one of our biggest restaurants had to be shut-down, but the others still run well to this day on. This means that God can open the way, He can arrange the best for us and He can also pour out abundant blessings on us.

As a human being, the writer used to do quite a few wicked, inappropriate and unholy things. In the past the writer also did not know how to let go of those things, but when he submitted himself to God he got a strong desire to live a holy life and trust God, and God opened the way.

So what is our condition today? Are we living righteously only in front of our family? Perhaps our family think we are good, even though we hide many lies and sins. Or we only look good

in the church, or in the eyes of the congregation. People might think that we are good, but those in our family know that we have done so many improper things. We might be considered good in public or in our society, but actually our family and some church members know all of our wrong doings. Or else, perhaps the society think we are not that good since our business patterns are not straight, or people at work know that we are bad employees, or even in school they know we are not good students.

In any condition, God can change our lives. God does not ask us to fret or try to find a way to change, He only wants our repentance, our sincere desire to live righteously before Him. A lot of friends and relatives of the writer wanted to let go of their dependence on smoking, pornography, gambling and other bad habits. Many of them have tried hard by their own efforts, yet failed. But later they were able to do away with their bad habits. When the writer asked how they could be that successful, they answered, "***When I really wanted to repent and willingly gave***

up my wickedness because I sincerely desired to live righteously before God, He solved all my problems in His miraculous way.”

Job 2:26 *“For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is dead also.”* (KJV)