

fore him the vivid conviction of his Lord's certain advent, and maintains an attitude of hope and expectancy for His coming. Those who do not desire, pray for and eagerly expect the Lord's re-appearance upon earth are not ready. This is brought out in the parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13.) In this picture the Saviour is looking forward into the future of the kingdom. As in the previous parable the time is night, when it is natural for a man to be asleep or drunken. There is a marriage and the banquet is already spread. According to the custom of the time a number go forth to meet and welcome the Bridegroom. In this case the reception committee were virgins, five of whom were wise and five foolish. These two classes represent the followers of Christ. They were all virgins, which is symbolic of purity, and they were all looking eagerly and joyfully for the coming of their Lord. They all had light, and a certain measure of oil. The difference between them was essential. The one had the source of light and the other had not. The foolish had a temporary supply, and the wise had their vessels together with their lamps, filled with oil, and so possessed a permanent provision. They all prepared for the coming of the bridegroom and went forth to meet him. Then they are ready for His advent. But in their long night vigil they grow weary, drowsy and then fall into slumber and sleep. While asleep there was indifference, inactivity and insensi-