

## 2021: “The Rise of the Wise Virgins”



**"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Rev. 22:17)**

**Let** those willing to listen to the sweet voice of the Master hear what the Spirit is saying to the church at this critical time. (Rev. 2:17) For the Heavenly Bridegroom Jesus is standing and calling to His Bride. I hear His tender call to come away with Him, to share a meal as close intimate friends in Holy Communion. For the Lord is singing a love song over His church.

**“Come high. Come high. I’m bidding you come higher!”**

A divine discontentment is coming to those dwelling in the lowlands of apathy and lukewarmness, stirring in the hearts of those who love Him. Barriers and walls that were previously erected by the sinful conditions of the heart are being pushed back by the anointing. A conforming fire that burns hot is transforming His church. She will be that city on a hill that cannot be hidden away.

**And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev. 21:2)**

The holy city, the New Jerusalem, is being prepared for her husband while His beautiful Bride is being prepared and adorned on Earth. The Spirit and the Bride say come. They are so in harmony that they flow as one. His Bride does not serve other gods nor establish idols; instead, she cries out, **“Come higher, people of God. Come higher.”** The Spirit is asking the church to leave behind the distractions of the past and come high. She is thirsty and drinking from living wells of life; the polluted waters of the world will never again satisfy. The temporal no longer suits her. She is digging deeper into pure wells of spirit and life.

### **Lamps, Scales, and Trumpets**

As I was preparing and praying over 2021, the Lord began to speak to me about three things: *Lamps, Scales, and Trumpets*. I experienced a visitation of the Spirit that lasted several weeks as He taught me these things. Many nights I lay awake as the reality of eternity became vivid and surreal. **I heard over and over again, “Eternity matters!”** A deeper personal revelation of eternity was given to me. I felt on some nights that I’d stepped into eternity itself. I was made to grasp the urgency of the hour and knew His church has no time left to waste.

#### **Lamps**

Within every church are those who love God and are leaving the distractions and hindrances behind so that they may know Christ more fully. They don’t care about fame, things or the carnal appetites of the flesh; they live to worship God alone. Also, in the church are those who are content as they always have been to be spectators of the inner court, to worship God from afar, to stand outside the chambers and watch the inner glow of His presence from the valley of earthly pleasure.

In Matthew 25 we find the story of the ten virgins—bridesmaids who were waiting for their beloved bridegroom. Five had fresh oil in their lamps and five did not. At midnight, all the virgins could hear the clarion call to come to meet the bridegroom. Recognizing their lamps had gone out, the foolish virgins asked the wise ones for some extra oil, but they said no. Unfortunately, the foolish missed the bridegroom’s arrival because they were out buying more oil. In the end, they were not prepared for the coming of the one they claimed to love. They slept and slumbered when they should have been awake and preparing. In the end, they missed their hour of visitation. The Bridegroom spoke to them somberly: “I never knew you (25:12).” In other words: “I did not have a close, intimate relationship with you.” You cannot borrow oil from another; you have to go to the source yourself. You also cannot claim another’s intimacy (oil) with the Lord; you must know the Lord yourself.

The wise virgins had oil in their lamps. They were torchbearers of the King. Lit up with bright holy purity, they were prepared for the lover of their souls. They had fresh oil and

were ready. When the bridegroom arrived, they were filled with great joy as they met their sweet Master.

A virgin in scripture always refers to the saved, the Christian. In every church we see the parable of ten virgins play out. We see the foolish and the wise. Some Christians are prepared with oil in their lamps. The oil speaks of the sweet communion of worship and prayer. They anticipate the coming of the one they love most. They are ready for His appearing.

In prayer I heard the Lord say: **“The year 2021 will be a year of the Rising of the Wise Virgins!”** I saw a lamp in the Spirit. I see the Lord shaking His church awake during these perilous times. Those that have taken the Lord for granted are suddenly waking up to the urgency of the hour. I see a rise of the wise virgins’ torches filled with fresh oil. I see many foolish ones joining the ranks of the wise, with a massive turn around in 2021. Many in the church are falling in love with Jesus all over again. They are going back to the foundation and returning to the inner chambers of the Lord. They hear the Bridegroom calling to them, **“Come high. Come high I’m bidding you come higher!”** and higher they are going, deeper they are splashing into the depths of the Spirit. I see fresh oil filling lamps and His bride becoming a torchbearer of light and purity to the world.

## Scales

In the Spirit I saw massive scales in the heavens weighing matters of great importance. The Lord began to speak, **“For a man’s ways are before the Lord, and he puts all his doings in the scales.”** (Prov. 5:21) As I lay awake many a night the Lord reminded me that “eternity matters.” That the choices we make on Earth will matter in eternity. The Lord sees our ways and our hearts, and He gave me fresh desire to make my life count for something more than myself. All my doings are in the scales of Heaven and motives, purity, and humility of heart matters to Him. The day will soon come when we ask why we did what we did. Did we glorify the Lord and not attempt to share His glory? Did He increase as we decreased?

**“All man’s ways are clean to himself, but the Lord put man’s spirit into his scales.”** (Prov. 16:2)

It is the Spirit of God that brings matters to our attention—the motives, the reason behind the reason, the intentions that we keep hidden, even from ourselves. In 2021 the Lord is going below the surface, deep within the hidden places of the heart to bring forth an inner beauty that cries out for purity and a clean heart. I hear the Bride of Christ crying out, **“Put me in the scales, so that I may be tested, let the fire make clean my thoughts and my heart.”** (Ps. 26:2) The wise virgins are asking for that deeper work—to be put on the scales, so that the Lord will reveal their hearts and that the fire will burn away sin and purify them. They refuse to have Daniel 5:27 define their lives: **“You’ve been weighed on the scales and you don’t measure up.”** They are asking for the mind of Christ and a pure heart after God’s own heart. “Investigate my heart, oh

God,” they cry. “Create in me a clean heart. Search deep within me and by Your grace make me Your wise and pure Bride!”

## **Trumpets**

I heard the Lord charge His Bride.

### **Blow the Trumpet in Jerusalem Sound the alarm on my holy mountain! (Joel 2: 1a)**

“Warn my people,” says the Lord. “Blow the trumpet. Sound an alarm for there is a call to repentance over the land,” declares the Lord of hosts. If my church would only do this one thing. **“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”** (2 Chron. 7:14)

I hear a call to repentance being shouted from the rooftops. I hear the ram’s horn being blown with might and strength.

**That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.”**

**Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.** (Joel 2:12-13)

“Blow the trumpet throughout the land. A holiness revival is coming to Earth. For I will have a pure and spotless Bride,” says the Lord. The intercessors are standing on the wall. The angels of the Lord are posturing and ready to fulfill their end-time prophetic activation and mandate.

I see His Bride walking on the water with a lamp in her hands, eager to enter into His presence, anticipating everything He has for her in that place where she will see the sweet Master face to face. The waters symbolize the depth of God’s presence, passing unnoticed, waves of fear or old hindrances that have previously stopped her progress. I see the Bride walking on top of the waters, unaffected by anything around her. She has a lamp in her hands because she has been busy loving the Lord, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill her moment by moment with the oil of fellowship, seeking after Him in prayer with great joy and mounting excitement. Her life is in the scales as the fire purifies her. For 2021 shall be the Rise of Wise Virgins. They hear the call to “Come High” and the horn of repentance she blows to Earth will remind all that they too must stay awake and get ready for the return of the Lord.

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Steve and his wife Diane founded Refuge Ministries and the presence-driven publishing company, Deeper Life Press. Steve is a regular contributor to many prophetic publications, including the Elijah List, Spirit Fuel, and the Identity Network. His writings have been read worldwide by hundreds of thousands of people. He has also been interviewed by the Trinity Broadcasting Network and a few other TV programs. Steve's books, maturity tracts, articles, and videos have touched countless lives around the world. The Porters reside near Rochester, NY.