



MATTHEW 25:1-13

READY *for His* RETURN

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

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Introduction

The Year of Jubilee

**Rest, Reset, Receive,
Recalibrate, Rejuvenate**

#AreWeReadyforHisReturn?

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (NKJV)

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (NKJV)

**9 But the wise answered, saying,
‘No, lest there should not be enough for us
and you; but go rather to those who sell, and
buy for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went
to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who
were ready went in with him to the wedding;
and the door was shut.**

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (NKJV)

11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us!” 12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

MATTHEW 25:1-13 (NKJV)

The reality of the End times

The reality of the End times

The parable of the Wise and Foolish virgins was given as an **encouragement and as a **warning** by Jesus in the light of His return.**

The reality of the End times.

- **The Olivet discourse**
- **Sermon on the End times found in Matthew 24**
- **Times of trouble and sorrow**

The reality of the End times.

- **The re-birth of Israel in 1948.**
- **Matthew 24:32 - parable of the fig tree**
- **When we see the fig tree budding, we know that the end is indeed near.**

The reality of the End times.

- **Don't be like Noah's friends who literally missed the boat!**
- **Whether by rapture or by natural decay of our physical bodies, we must be ready to meet Him and to give an accounting of our lives!**

#AreWeReadyforHisReturn?

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **1st Parable:**
 - **Faithful Servant and the Evil servant**
 - **Faithfulness and Moral Wisdom**

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **“Who then is a **faithful** and **wise** servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”**

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **We must possess Faithfulness and Moral Wisdom in our awaiting His return.**

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **2nd Parable:**
 - **Wise and Foolish Virgins**
 - **emphasis is on Sensible Wisdom or Prudence versus Foolishness in the wait for His return**

3 Parables on Wisdom and Faithfulness

- **3rd Parable of the Talents:**
 - **emphasis is again on Faithfulness**
 - **‘Good and Faithful servant’**
 - **In looking forward to Jesus’ return, we must live our lives both in Faithfulness as well as in Wisdom.**

**Reminder for us to
walk prudently and in wisdom
in our wait for Him.**

#AreWeReadyforHisReturn?

1. **WISDOM** **IN OUR CONTEXT**

2. **WISDOM** **IN OUR WAITING**

3. **WISDOM** **IN THE WARNING**



1. **WISDOM** **IN OUR CONTEXT**

**a. What is Wisdom
in our present Context?**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

Wisdom or Prudence = “Phronimos”

- **to be thoughtful**
- **of cautious character**
- **to possess sagaciousness**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

Sagaciousness:

- **to be keen in discernment**
- **to possess sound judgement**
- **to have far-sightedness**

1.
WISDOM
IN OUR CONTEXT

**To exercise care
in our living.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

**The word Foolish comes from the
Greek word 'Moros'.**

**It can be translated
to the adjective or noun Moron.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

**dull or stupid = heedless
not to apply our minds
to the situation at hand**

Dictionary

moral blockhead, or to be absurd

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

- Wisdom in our present context -

Knowing that we will be meeting Jesus soon, that there is a wedding feast and a celebration at hand, we are to be applying our minds to the situation.

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

**We are to be prudent to make
suitable preparations in the
light of His impending return.**

**It is to do the right thing
at the right time.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT



Doing the **wrong thing** at the **right time**, and doing the **right thing** at the **wrong time**.

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **10 virgins or young maidens**
- **stationed at the father's house**
- **Their duty was to welcome the bridal party.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **They were tasked to each carry a lamp, containing oil, which provided light and warmth for the welcome.**
- **There was a great shout at **midnight**.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **The virgins were all awakened by the shout and began preparing their lamps.**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **The foolish ones realized that they had not brought enough oil!**
- **Their lamps were going out!**
- **They were unprepared for the welcome!**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- Now they were doing the **right thing**
- purchasing more oil, but at the **wrong time.**
- When they were away buying more oil, the bridegroom showed up!

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **The 5 wise virgins on the other hand, had enough oil.**
- **They were ready to welcome the bridal party.**

1. **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **The foolish virgins finally managed to come back from their oil search.**
- **But by that time, it had become irrelevant.**

^{1.} **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

b. Re-cap of the Parable

- **They cried ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’**
- **However, they were rejected.**

1. **WISDOM**

IN OUR CONTEXT

**“Watch therefore,
for you know neither
the day nor the hour in which
the Son of Man is coming.”**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

the expression of wisdom on the part of the 5 wise virgins

➡ Prepared

**➡ Paid careful attention
to the job at hand**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

the expression of wisdom on the part of the 5 wise virgins

- ➡ **Heeded the voice of their master**
- ➡ **Exhibited prudence and far-sightedness**
- ➡ **In spite of delays, they got the job done**

^{1.} **WISDOM** IN OUR CONTEXT

the expression of wisdom on the part of the 5 unwise virgins

➡ **Not as prepared**

➡ **Not as wise**

➡ **Did not pay enough heed**

1. **WISDOM**

IN OUR CONTEXT

the expression of wisdom on the part of the 5 unwise virgins

- ➡ **Did not exercise prudence or foresight**
- ➡ **Unprepared for unforeseen delays**
- ➡ **Failed in their job description**

1. **WISDOM**

IN OUR CONTEXT

Question:

**Did the foolish ones
deliberately run out of oil?**

1. **WISDOM**

IN OUR CONTEXT

Question:

**Were the intentions of
the foolish ones good?**

1. WISDOM

IN OUR CONTEXT

WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL

**Good intentions alone
never got the job done**

**What is needed is Wisdom
in our lives.**



2. **WISDOM** **IN OUR WAITING**

3 main ways:
a. Asking God for Wisdom

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

JAMES 1:5 (NIV)



2. **WISDOM**

IN OUR WAITING

**God gives us wisdom
when we ask Him**

He will give



2. **WISDOM**

IN OUR WAITING

**We must humble
ourselves and ask the
Lord in prayer for wisdom
and discernment.**

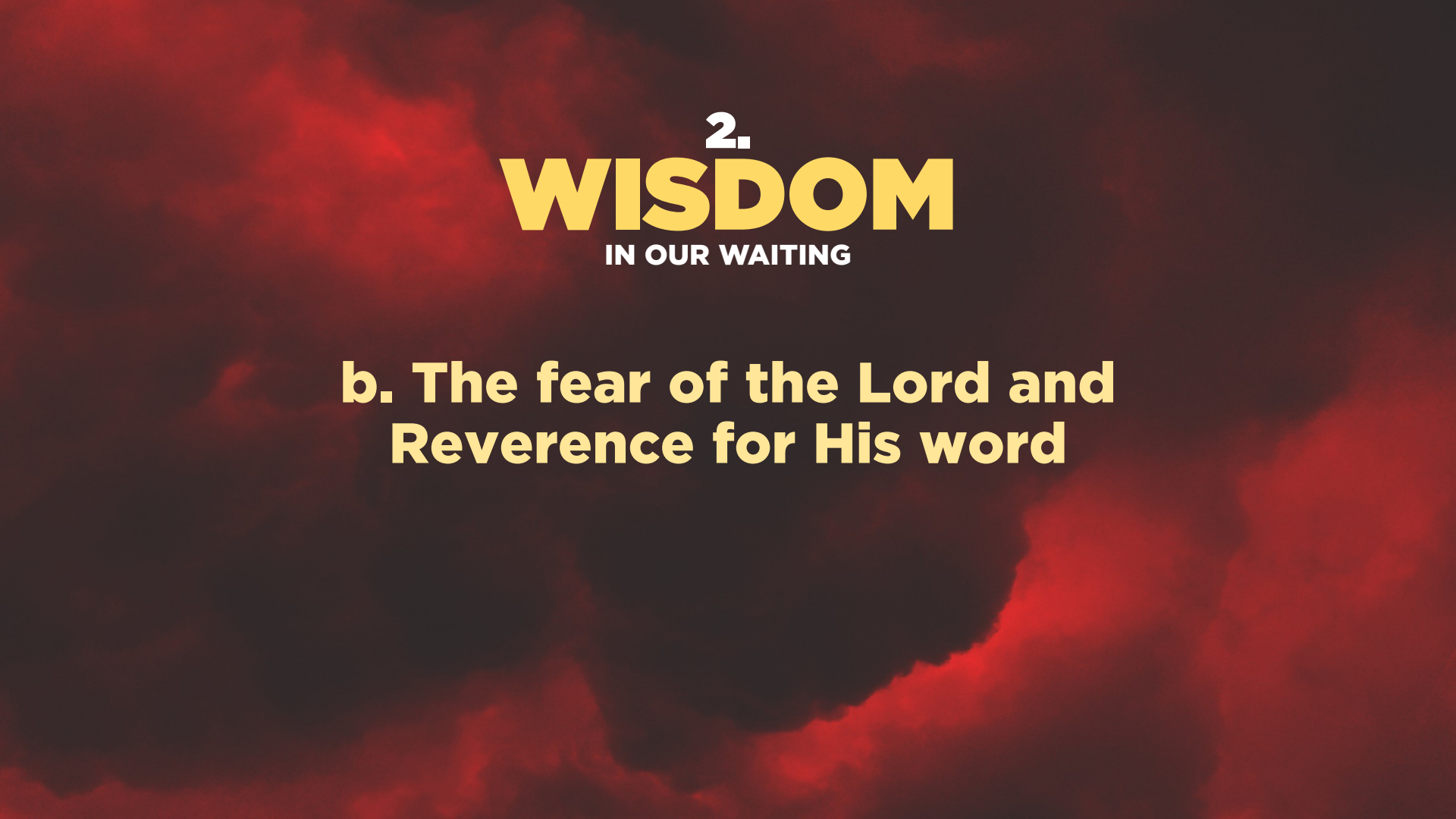
**“Which of you, if your son asks for bread,
will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a
fish, will give him a snake?”**

MATTHEW 7:9-10 (NIV)

The background of the entire slide is a dramatic, high-contrast image of clouds. The clouds are a deep, vibrant red, with some areas appearing darker, almost black, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The lighting is uneven, with brighter patches of red and darker, shadowed areas, giving it a moody and powerful appearance.

2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**We often fail to even
turn to Him to ask
in the first place!**



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

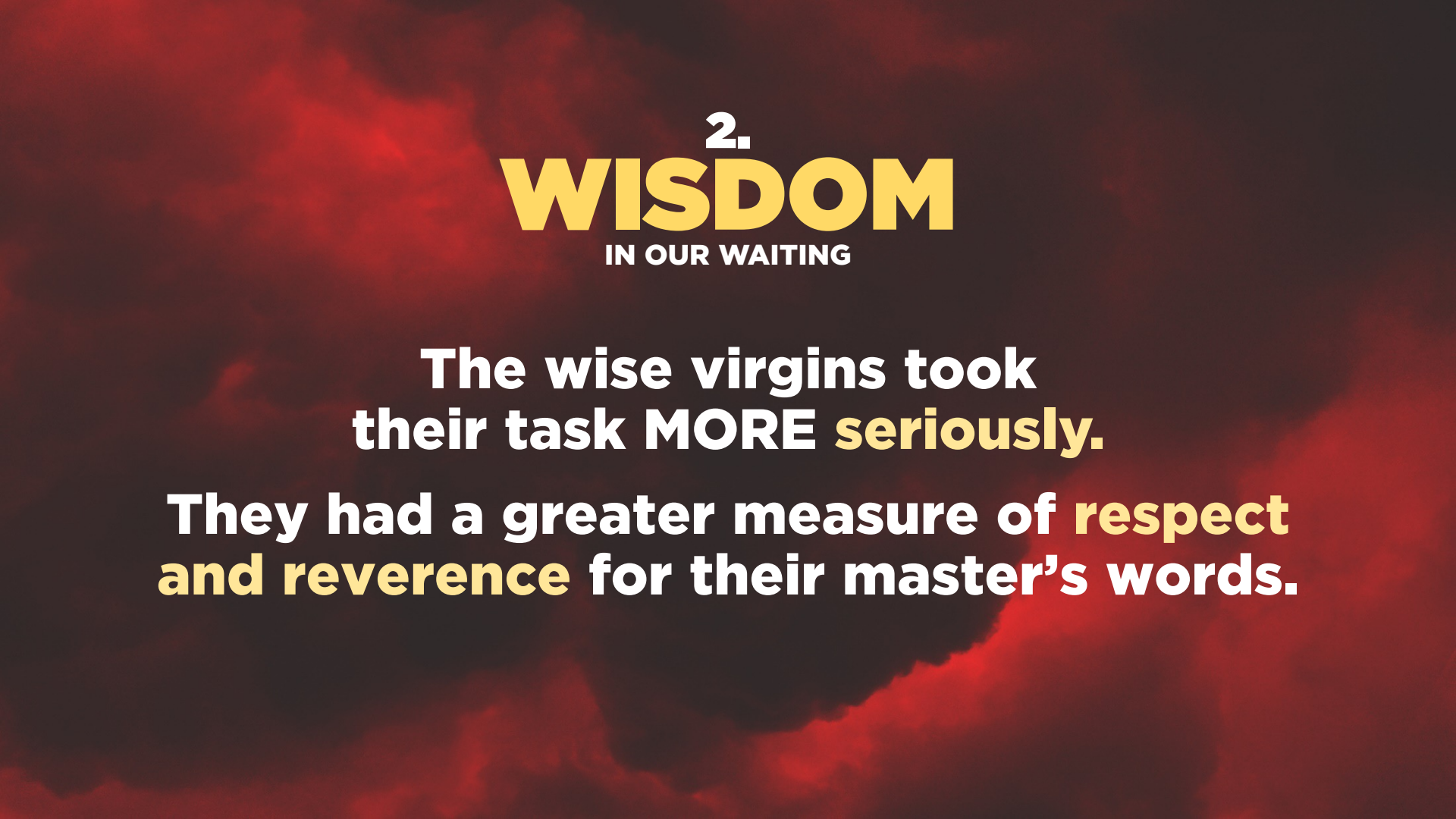
**b. The fear of the Lord and
Reverence for His word**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

PROVERBS 9:10 (ESV)

**“The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of knowledge; fools despise
wisdom and instruction.”**

PROVERBS 1:7 (ESV)



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

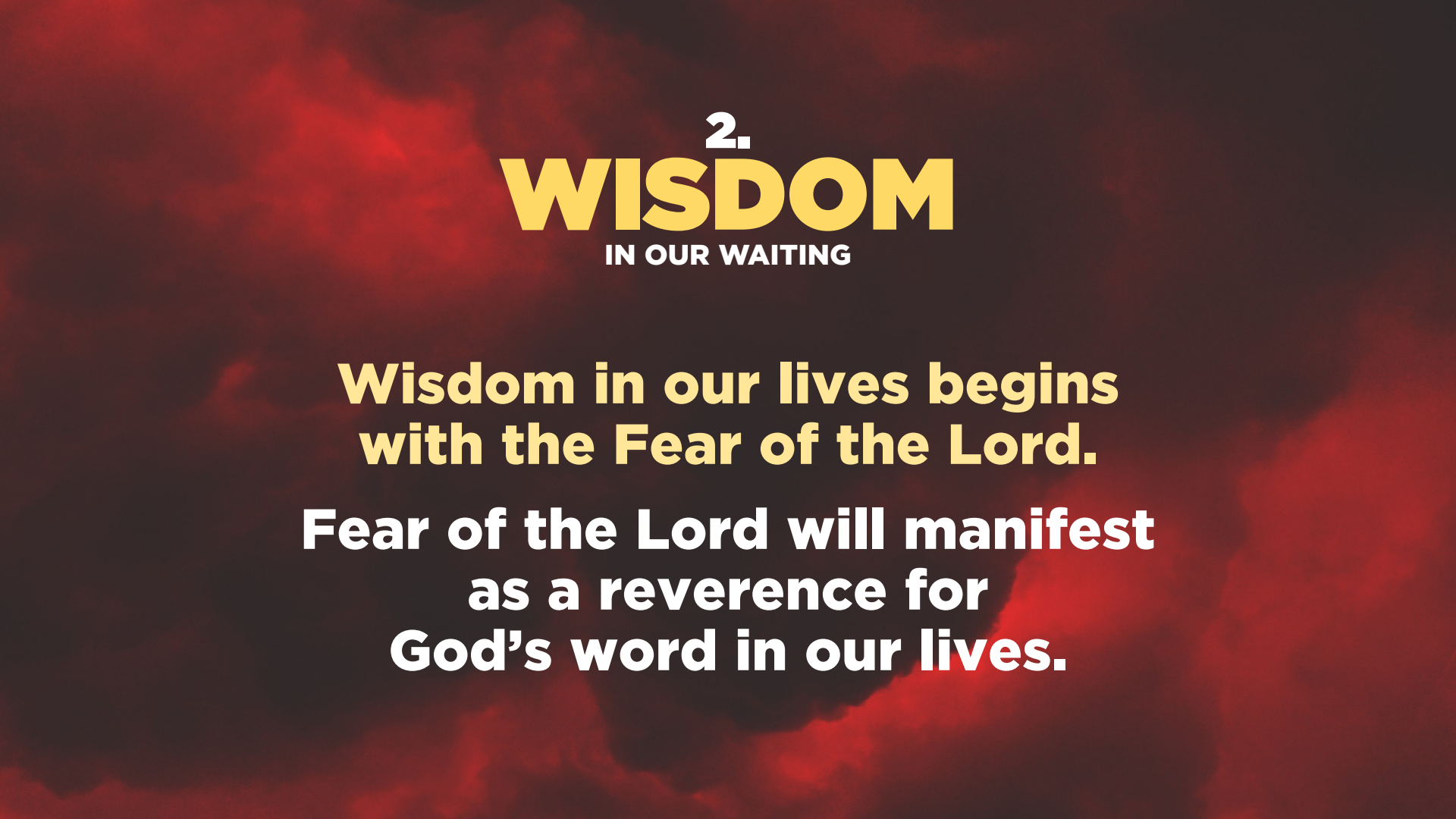
**The wise virgins took
their task MORE seriously.**

**They had a greater measure of respect
and reverence for their master's words.**

The background of the entire image is a dramatic, high-contrast photograph of clouds. The clouds are a deep, vibrant red, with some areas appearing darker, almost black, creating a sense of depth and intensity. The lighting is dramatic, with highlights on the edges of the clouds and deep shadows in the recesses.

2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**Wisdom in our lives begins
with the **Fear of the Lord.****



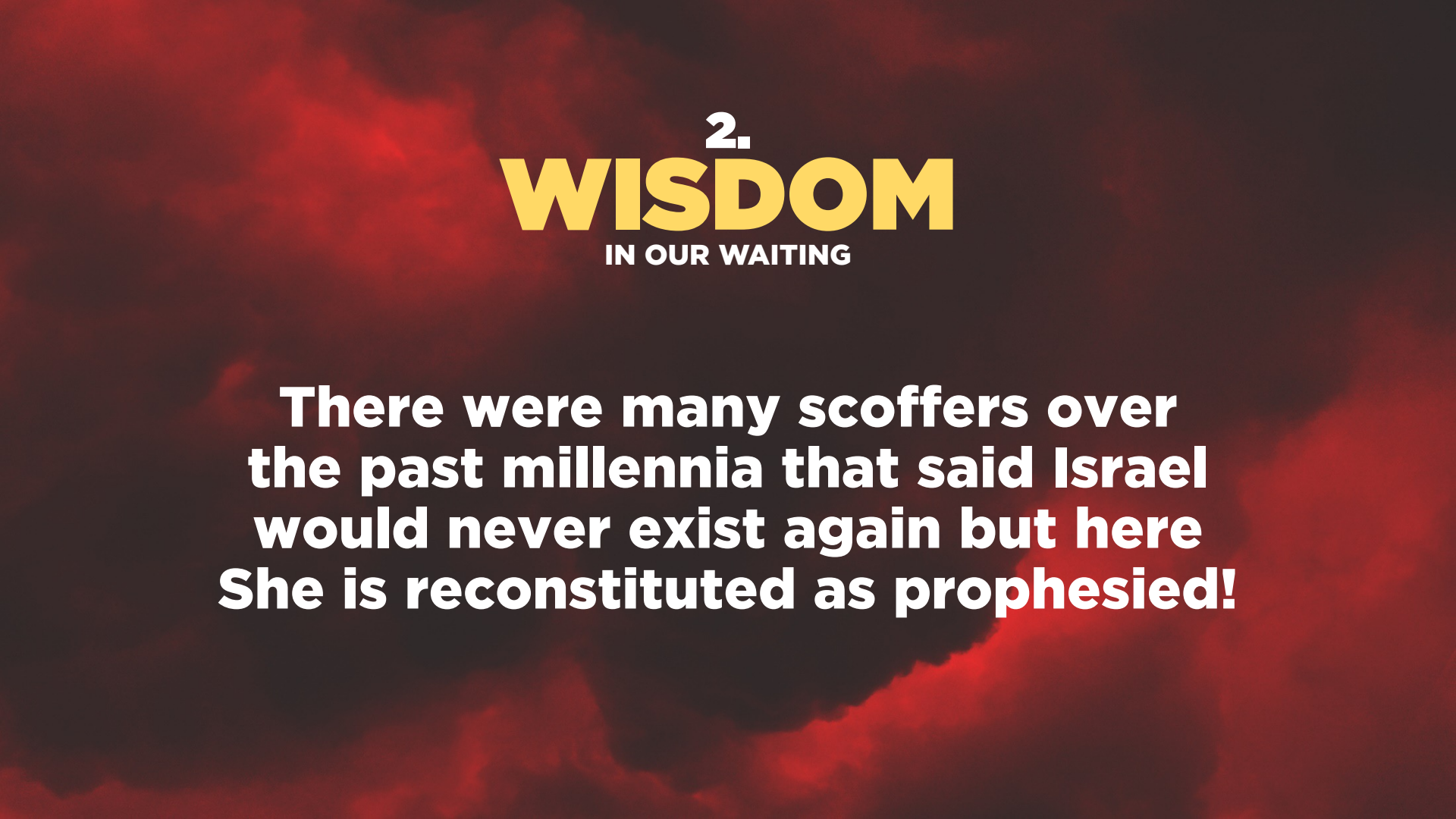
2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**Wisdom in our lives begins
with the Fear of the Lord.**

**Fear of the Lord will manifest
as a reverence for
God's word in our lives.**

**“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth
disappear, not the smallest letter,
not the least stroke of a pen, will by any
means disappear from the Law
until everything is accomplished.”**

MATTHEW 5:18 (NIV)



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**There were many scoffers over
the past millennia that said Israel
would never exist again but here
She is reconstituted as prophesied!**



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

Fear God
Pay close and serious attention
to His Word!

2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

Many choose **not to live by the Word
of the Living God.**

**And in doing so,
they become foolish.**

They fail to discern the times.

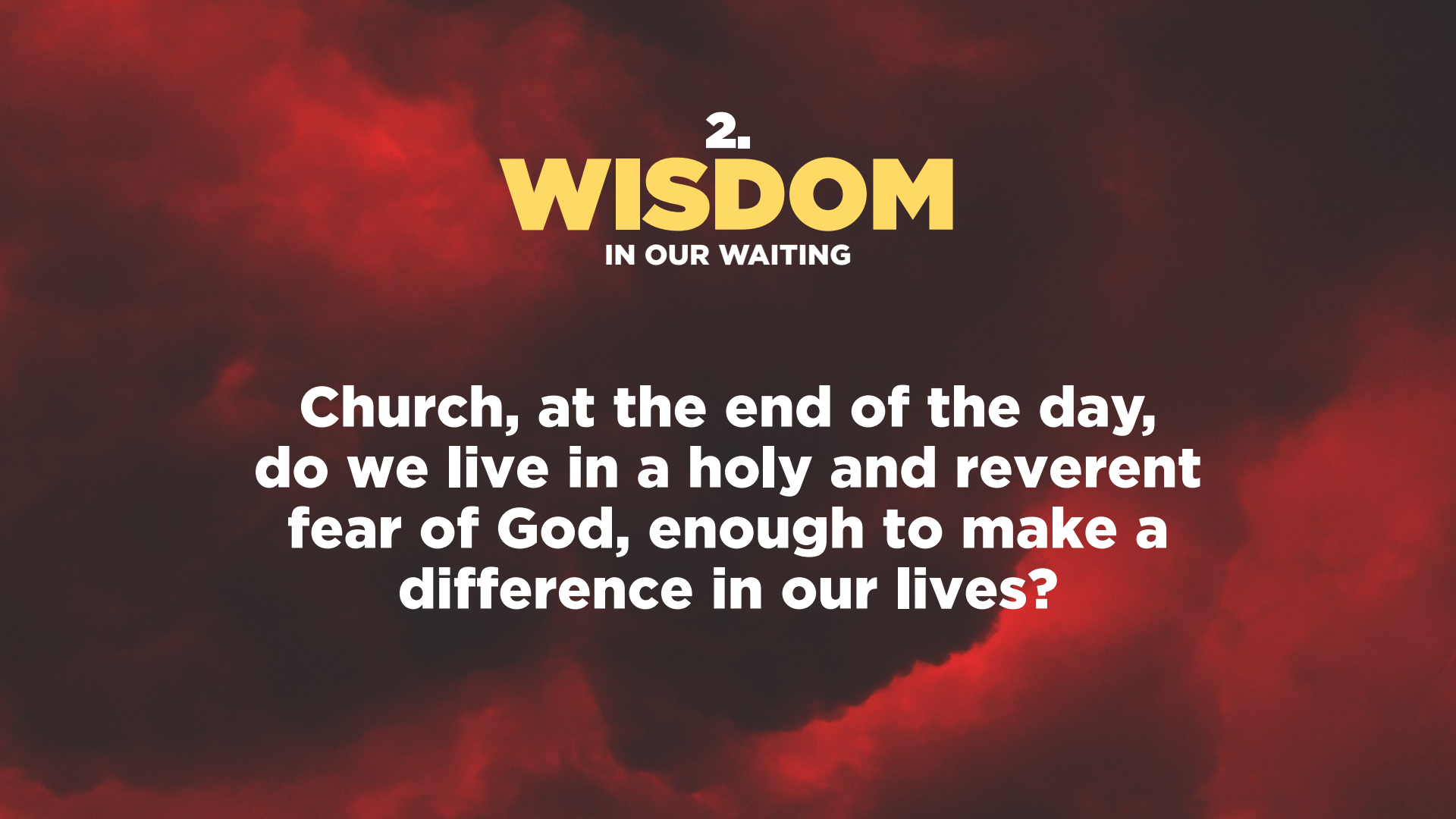
2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

Question:

**Do we reverence God enough to spend
time daily with His Word?**

Is His Word found in us?

Are we careful to walk in His ways?



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**Church, at the end of the day,
do we live in a holy and reverent
fear of God, enough to make a
difference in our lives?**

The background of the entire slide is a dramatic, high-contrast image of clouds. The clouds are rendered in deep reds, maroons, and dark purples, creating a moody and intense atmosphere. The lighting appears to come from the sides, highlighting the textures of the clouds.

2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

c. Walking with the wise

2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**The virgins were split into 2 groups:
5 foolish and 5 wise**

**5 who succeeded:
succeeded as a group**

**The other 5 who failed:
failed as a group**



2. **WISDOM** IN OUR WAITING

**The virgins were commended and
chastised **as a group**.**

**Wisdom can be shared
'birds of a feather flock together'**

**“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”**

PROVERBS 13:20 (ESV)



2. **WISDOM**

IN OUR WAITING

**We must walk
with the wise
in order to be wise.**



2. **WISDOM**

IN OUR WAITING

Question:

**Are we walking
with the wise today?**



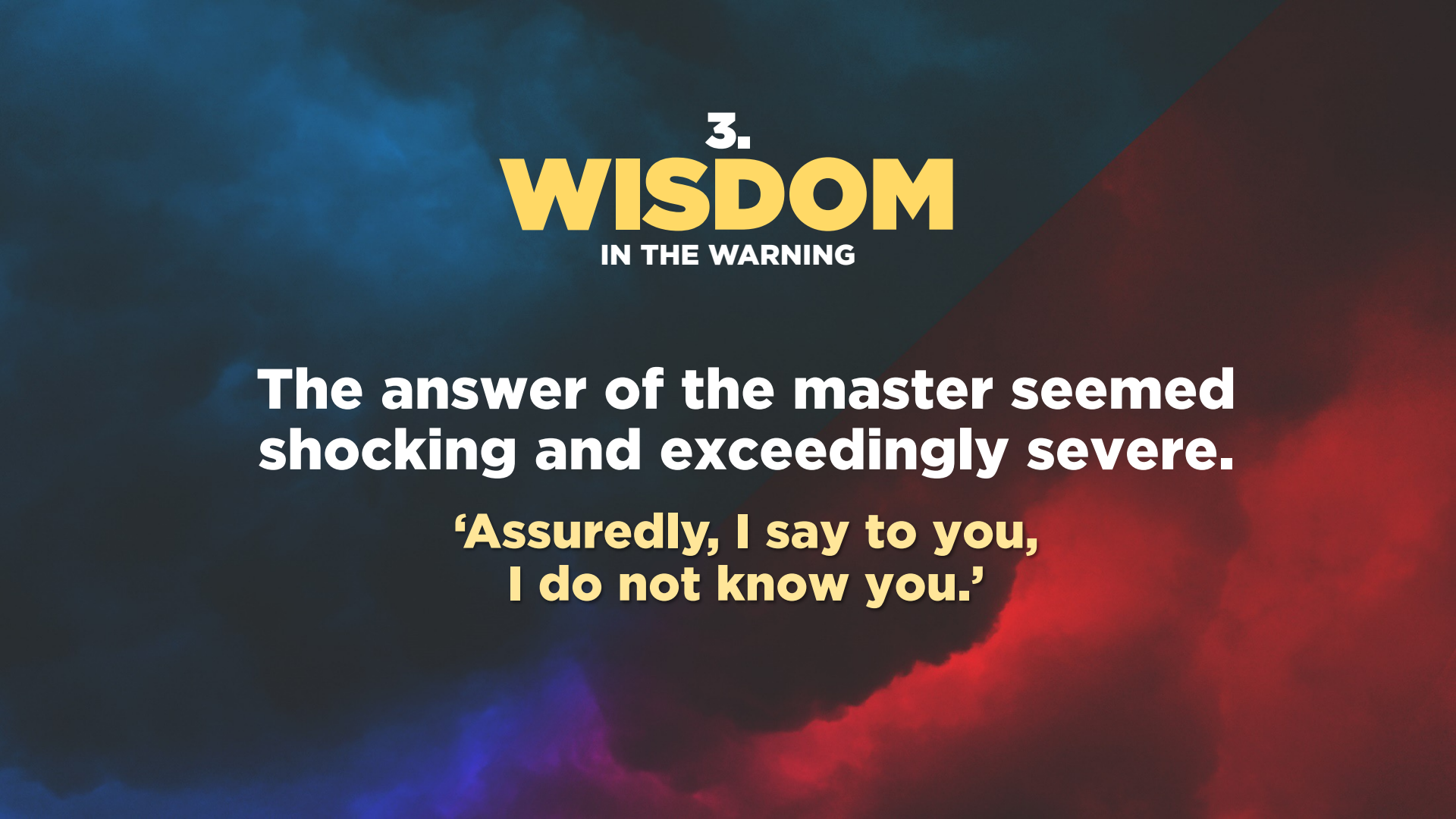
3. **WISDOM** **IN THE WARNING**

a. The Master's shocking Reply

**11 “Afterward the other virgins came also,
saying, Lord, Lord, open to us!”**

**12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly,
I say to you, I do not know you.’**

MATTHEW 25:11-12 (NKJV)



3. **WISDOM** IN THE WARNING

The answer of the master seemed shocking and exceedingly severe.

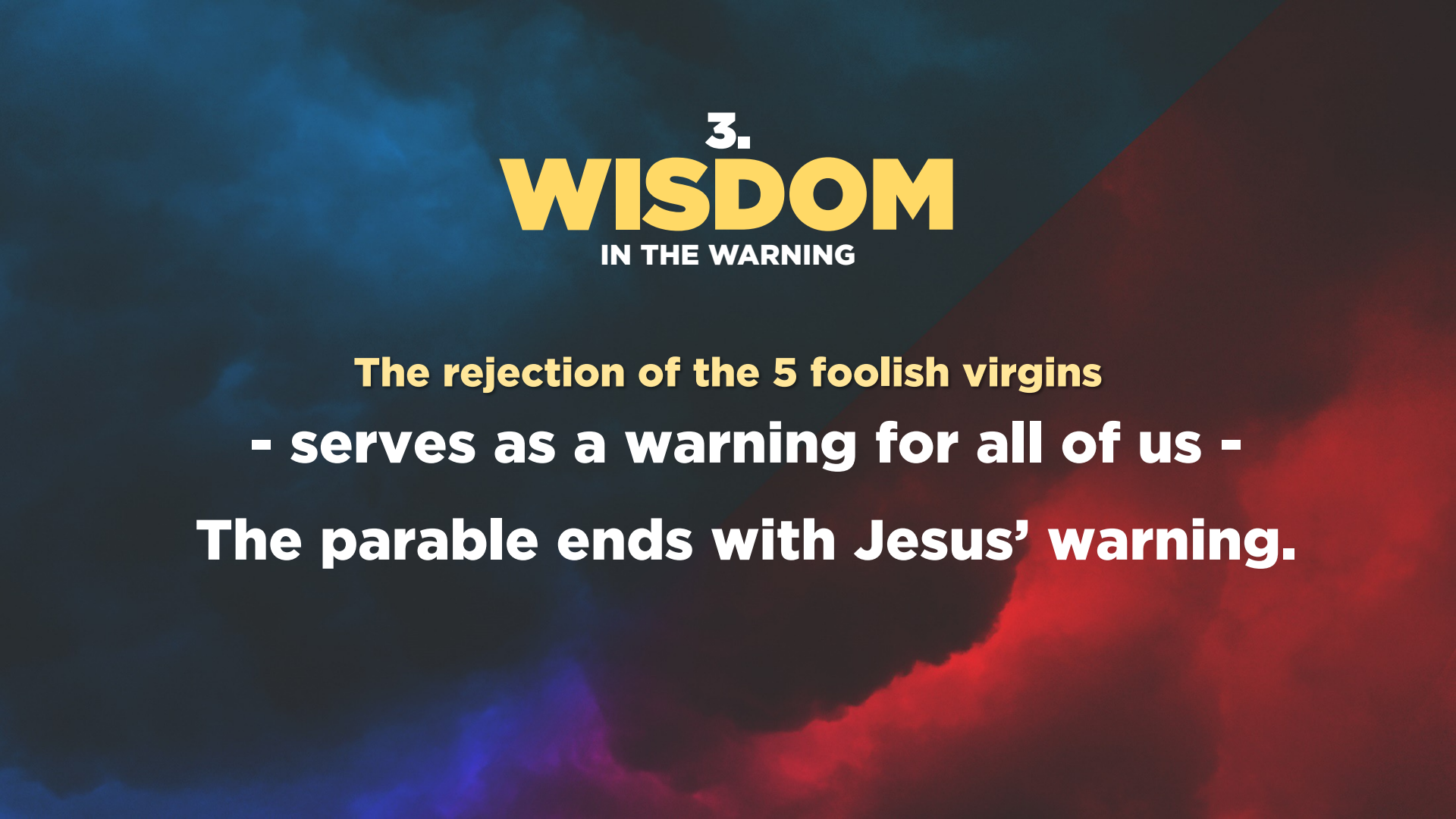
**‘Assuredly, I say to you,
I do not know you.’**



3. WISDOM

IN THE WARNING

**‘Once saved always saved’
versus
one’s ability to lose your salvation**



3. **WISDOM** IN THE WARNING

The rejection of the 5 foolish virgins

- serves as a warning for all of us -

The parable ends with Jesus' warning.

**“Watch therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour in which
the Son of Man is coming.”**

MATTHEW 25:13 (NKJV)

3.
WISDOM
IN THE WARNING

b. The Lesson –
Not Condemnation but Wisdom

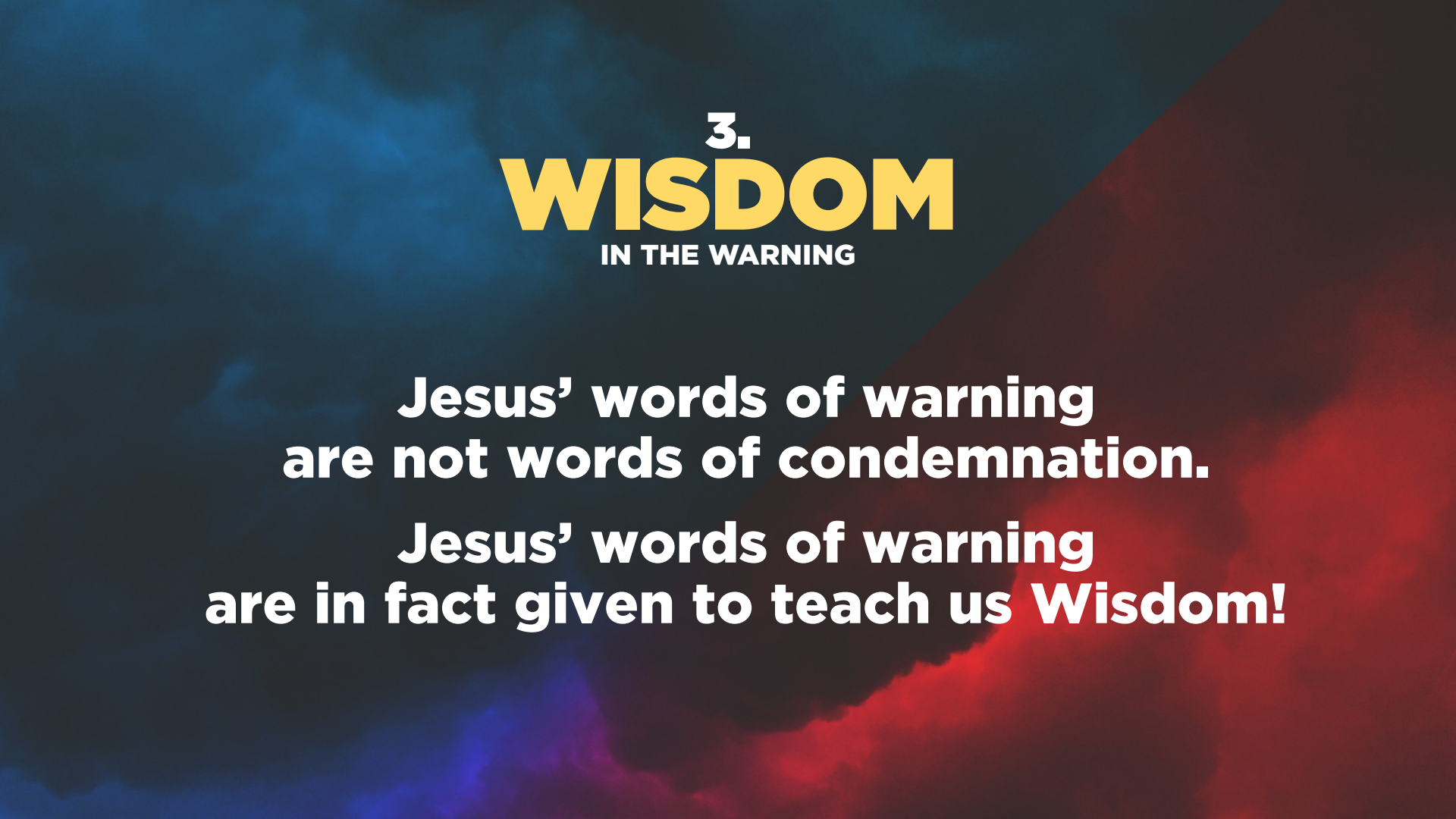
3. WISDOM

IN THE WARNING

**We must heed the
master's warnings on how we live.**

**We are to live prepared
and ready for His return.**

We are to live wisely and not foolishly.

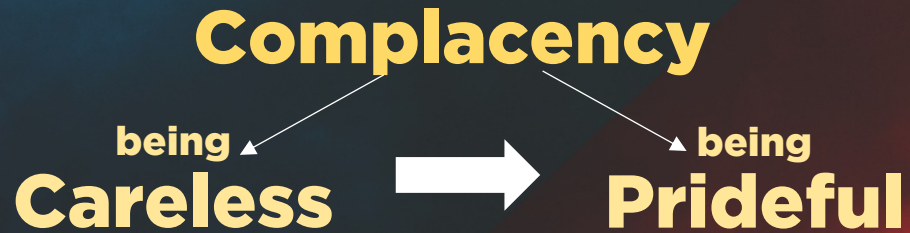


3. **WISDOM** IN THE WARNING

**Jesus' words of warning
are not words of condemnation.**

**Jesus' words of warning
are in fact given to teach us **Wisdom!****

3. **WISDOM** IN THE WARNING



In our walk with Him

3. WISDOM

IN THE WARNING

This is Wisdom!

**Learn wisdom from
Jesus' words of warning**

**Remember that whom Jesus loves,
He chastises and warns.**



3. **WISDOM** IN THE WARNING

c. My Testimony

Conclusion

Conclusion

**We must ask the Lord for
wisdom to discern the hour.**

**We must labor to
acquire wisdom.**

**We must learn to walk
with the wise.**

Conclusion

**We must instill the fear of the
Lord in our hearts again.**

He is coming soon.

#AreWeReadyforHisReturn?