Psalm 78:1-7 The Message JUDY

78 1-4 Listen, dear friends, to God's truth,
bend your ears to what I tell you.
I'm chewing on the morsel of a proverb;
I'll let you in on the sweet old truths,
Stories we heard from our fathers,
counsel we learned at our mother's knee.
We're not keeping this to ourselves,
we're passing it along to the next generation—
God's fame and fortune,
the marvelous things he has done.

5-8 He planted a witness in Jacob,
set his Word firmly in Israel,
Then commanded our parents
to teach it to their children
So the next generation would know,
and all the generations to come—
Know the truth and tell the stories
so their children can trust in God,
Never forget the works of God
but keep his commands to the letter.

As the Song of Songs 3:6-11 suggests, the performing of a wedding involved the groom and his friends going to the bride's residence at the appointed time to bring his richly dressed bride and her attendants back to his residence (Ps. 45:12b-15; Isa. 61:10) to complete the appropriate ceremony and participate in a rich feast with dancing and song. The celebrations could last from seven to fourteen days. How extensive or expensive the festivities would depend on the wealth of the families. A humble village wedding would be much less elaborate than one for a high-born and wealthy couple. The parable captures a moment in time when a group of young women await the arrival of the groom and his bride.

The story is not as important as its intended eschatological interpretation. It reinforces the theme found in all Jewish eschatology that the moment when the Messiah comes is always to be anticipated but without any specific timing whatsoever. While drawing heavily on the Jewish expectation found extensively in some prophetic and considerable inter-testamental literature the Christian interpretation deals almost exclusively on the return of the true Messiah, Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord.

Matthew 25:1-13 Common English Bible

Parable of the ten young bridesmaids

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten young bridesmaids who took their lamps
and went out to meet the groom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and the other five were foolish.
3 The foolish ones took their lamps but didn't bring oil for them. 4 But the wise ones took their
lamps and also brought containers of oil.

5 "When the groom was late in coming, they all became drowsy and went to sleep. 6 But at
midnight there was a cry, 'Look, the groom! Come out to meet him.'

7 "Then all those bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. 8 But the foolish bridesmaids
said to the wise ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps have gone out.'

9 "But the wise bridesmaids replied, 'No, because if we share with you, there won't be enough
for our lamps and yours. We have a better idea. You go to those who sell oil and buy some for
yourselves.' 10 But while they were gone to buy oil, the groom came. Those who were ready
went with him into the wedding. Then the door was shut.

11 "Later the other bridesmaids came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us.'

12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

13 "Therefore, keep alert, because you don't know the day or the hour.