

# John 16:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

## Analysis

**These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs** (Ταῦτα ἐν παροιμίαις λελάληκα ὑμῖν/Tauta en paroimiais lelalēka hymin)—παροιμία (paroimia) means proverb, parable, figure of speech, enigmatic saying. Jesus's Upper Room discourse (John 13-17) contains profound truths presented symbolically: vine and branches (15:1-8), childbirth metaphor (16:21), "a little while" (16:16-19). The perfect tense λελάληκα (lelalēka, "have spoken") indicates completed action with ongoing effect—His teaching remains authoritative.

**But the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs** (ἔρχεται ὥρα ὅτε οὐκέτι ἐν παροιμίαις λαλήσω ὑμῖν/erchetai hōra hote ouketi en paroimiais lalēsō hymin)—the present tense ἔρχεται (erchetai, "is coming") indicates imminence. Post-resurrection appearances and especially Pentecost will bring clarity. Οὐκέτι (ouketi, "no more") promises an end to obscurity.

**But I shall shew you plainly of the Father** (ἀλλὰ παρρησίᾳ περὶ τοῦ Πατρὸς ἀπαγγελῶ ὑμῖν/alla parrēsia peri tou Patros apangelō hymin)—παρρησία (parrēsia) means boldness, frankness, plainness, openness. No more riddles—the Spirit will reveal the Father through Christ with clarity (John 14:9, 26; 16:13-15). The future ἀπαγγελῶ (apangelō, "I will declare") promises definite revelation.

## Historical Context

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Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus taught in parables and figures that confused even His disciples (Mark 4:10-13, 34). He concealed truth from the proud while revealing it to the humble (Matthew 11:25). But after the resurrection, Jesus "opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures" (Luke 24:45). At Pentecost, the Spirit came to guide believers "into all truth" (John 16:13). The apostles' subsequent teaching—captured in epistles—shows remarkable clarity about Christ, the Father, salvation, and sanctification. What was enigmatic during Jesus's earthly ministry became luminous through the Spirit's illumination. Church history demonstrates progressive understanding of biblical truth as the Spirit guides each generation deeper into Christ's revelation.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise of plain revelation through the Spirit encourage you when Scripture seems obscure or difficult to understand?
2. What is the relationship between Jesus's parabolic teaching during His earthly ministry and the Spirit's post-Pentecost illumination?
3. In what ways do you experience the Spirit's work of showing you 'plainly of the Father' through Scripture and prayer?

## Interlinear Text

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Ταῦτα	ἐν	παροιμίαις	λαλήσω	ὑμῖν	ἀλλὰ	ἔρχεται
<b>These things</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>proverbs</b>	<b>I shall</b>	<b>unto you</b>	<b>but</b>	<b>cometh</b>
G5023	G1722	G3942	G2980	G5213	G235	G2064
ὥρα	ὅτε	οὐκ	ἔτι	ἐν	παροιμίαις	λαλήσω ὑμῖν
<b>the time</b>	<b>when</b>	<b>no more</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>proverbs</b>	<b>I shall</b>	<b>unto you</b>
G5610	G3753	G2089	G1722	G3942	G2980	G5213
ἀλλὰ	παρρησίᾳ	περὶ	τοῦ	πατρὸς	ἀναγγελῶ	ὑμῖν
<b>but</b>	<b>plainly</b>	<b>of</b>		<b>the Father</b>	<b>I shall shew</b>	<b>unto you</b>
G235	G3954	G4012	G3588	G3962	G312	G5213

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 16:12** (Parallel theme): I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

**Mark 4:13** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

**John 10:6** (Parallel theme): This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

**Psalms 78:2** (Parallel theme): I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

**Psalms 49:4** (Parallel theme): I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.