



SEVEN KINGDOM PARABLES

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Matthew 13:1-12

Seven Kingdom Parables

The parables are given to those who are spiritually enlightened so you can know the mysteries of the kingdom. The parables are not for those in the darkness. What is He (Christ) talking about? Spiritual insight!

Seven Kingdom Parables

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| 1. Sower and 4 Soils | Matthew 13:3-9 |
| Why Parables? | Matthew 13:10-17 |
| Sower and 4 Soils Explained | Mathew 13:18-23 |
| 2. Tares and Wheat | Matthew 13:24-30 |
| 3. Mustard Seed | Matthew 13:31-32 |
| 4. Woman and Leaven | Matthew 13:33 |
| Why Parables (continued) | Matthew 13:34-35 |
| Tares and Wheat Explained | Matthew 13:36-43 |
| 5. Treasure in the Field | Matthew 13:44 |
| 6. Pearl of Great Price | Matthew 13:45-46 |
| 7. Dragnet | Matthew 13:36-50 |

We find that Christ spoke to the multitudes in Matthew Chapters 1-12. Beginning in Matthew Chapter 13 and to His crucifixion He spoke in parables. Even His conversation with Pontius Pilate Christ spoke in parables that He could not understand but the enlightened who would read the Bible text could. These parables contain truths that are hidden from the Old Testament, otherwise they would not have been “kept hidden from the foundation of the world” (seven times here: Matthew 13:35; Matthew 25:34; Luke 11:50; Hebrews 4:3, 9:26; Revelation 13:8, 17:8). These things that the LORD is talking about in Matthew 13 are first time occasions not found overtly in the other Old Testament books.



What is the Hidden Secret?

“4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:”

Ephesians 3:4-6

The hidden secret, or mystery is the CHURCH. Not just that Gentiles will be converted but that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ Jesus by the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). From this mystery, we get the insight that these seven parables have the specific focus on the Church.

“And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.”

Matthew 13:13-17

“All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 13:34-35

THE FOUR SOILS

“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”



Matthew 13:3-9

Four Soils: Explained

“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Mathew 13:18-23

God is the Sower, and the seed is His Word. Who are the birds? See verse 19, the evil one takes away the seed (birds are bad in parables). In stony places, there is a little soil but not enough to take root. A little pressure, a little persecution, and they are onto the next fad; they have no roots. Third, they mean well, but they get swept up in the cares of this world. The world makes it's demands on you and the thorns choke out any spiritual fruit. The fourth soil called good ground refers to the condition of the heart.

Do Not Love the World

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

1 John 2:15-17

TARES AND WHEAT

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares



also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Matthew 13:24-30

The Sower is not necessarily asleep (the LORD never sleeps). “Tares” are a Zizania seed (in Israel today) that looks just like wheat while it is growing, but then while it matures it turns black (it shows its true color). If it gets mixed up in the wheat and you bake bread with it, it is poisonous! It must be separated out. There will be a separation: the burning of the tares, and the gathering of wheat into His barn.

Tares and Wheat: Explained

“Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the

angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

Matthew 13:36-43

The Sower is the Son of Man; the good seed are the children of His kingdom; the field is the world; the tares are the children of the wicked one; enemy that sowed the tares is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. The phrase “end of the age” is found six times (v.29, 40, 47; 24:; 28:20; Hebrews 9:26) meaning the Age of Man. Again, we find the phrase “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (also, from Revelation Chapters 2 and 3; the seven letters to the Seven churches!)

MUSTARD SEED

“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”



Matthew 13:31-32

Mustard seeds grow into bushes about three feet tall. Have you ever seen a bird lodge in a small bush? No. The mustard seed apparently grows to become a monstrosity, something larger than it is supposed to. It becomes a structure so large and spacious that birds come and lodge in the branches. Birds are the ones that picked up the seed in the first parable; the ministers of satan!

WOMAN AND LEAVEN

“Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.”

Matthew 13:33



Leaven in Jewish terms is a symbol of sin. An example is Passover which is a ceremony to get the leaven out of the house. Leaven is sin because it corrupts by puffing up. What is the root of all sin? Pride. Whose pride? Satan's (Isaiah 14). Leaven is used as a type of sin throughout the Old and New Testament. Twice Jesus says, and twice Paul says, “a little leaven, leaveth the whole lump.”

“Three measures of meal” to an Arab or a Jew, historically, this suggests the Oaks at Mamre (from genesis 18 on, three measures of meal are a symbol of the fellowship offering). It is wrong to hide leaven in the measures of Meal! The Church will not be perfect, it will be impure. Leaven will be introduced, and it will grow and contaminate. These parables are prophecies of the Church age!

TREASURE IN THE FIELD

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”

Matthew 13:44



This is not saying to sell all and buy Jesus Christ, as Jesus is a free gift. To feel that you can add one thing to that which He has done 100% is arrogance, to assume that you can add to that which God has called complete is blasphemy.

The “field” is the world. Within that world, a treasure is hidden. The “treasure” is hidden in the field, or the world (Exodus 19:5; Psalms 135). We are described as His precious treasure.

The One that gave up all that He had for the sake of the treasure is Jesus Christ! He wanted the treasure. He did not buy just one little parcel. He bought the whole field (both good and bad). He died on the cross for all sinners.

- Who did the buying? He did
- What did it cost Him? All His Blood
- He purchased what? You and I!
- Who is the treasure hidden in the field? You and I are!

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Matthew 13:45-46



The one problem with parable is Oysters are not kosher and Jews can only eat seafood with scales. Pearls are distinctly a Gentile ornament, not a Jewish ornament. This means that pearls were not prized by the Jewish community. While they might trade them because of profitable trade value, the Pearl is unique among jewels because it's the only one that is made by a living organism as a response to irritation that has been introduced to its system. IT is then removed from its place of growth to become an item of adornment. The pearl as a gentile jewel is an idiom of the church!

DRAGNET

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.”

Matthew 13:47-48

The judgment. Separation of the good and the bad.

Dragnet: Explained

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 13:49-50

STUDENT DILIGENCE

“Jesus saith unto them, Have ye understood all these things? They say unto him, Yea, Lord. Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

Matthew 13:51-52

“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

THE SEVEN KINGDOM PARABLES

Matthew 13

Revelation 2 and 3

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ➤ The Sower and 4 Soils | Ephesus |
| ➤ The Tares and the Wheat | Smyrna |
| ➤ The Mustard Seed | Pergamos |
| ➤ The Woman and the Leaven | Thyatira |
| ➤ The Treasure in the Field | Sardis |
| ➤ The Pearl of Great Price | Philadelphia |
| ➤ The Dragnet | Laodicea |

PAUL’S EPISTLES TO SEVEN CHURCHES

Paul wrote thirteen letters. Three of them are “first and second,” leaving ten addresses, three of which are to pastors: thus, Paul also wrote to seven churches.

Jesus

Paul

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| ➤ Ephesus | Ephesus |
| ➤ Smyrna | Philippians |
| ➤ Pergamos | Corinthians |
| ➤ Thyatira | Galatians |
| ➤ Sardis | Romans |

- Philadelphia Thessalonians
- Laodicea Colossians

- Ephesus – Letter to the Ephesians
- Smyrna – Letter to Philippians (joy through suffering)
- Pergamos – Letter to the Corinthians (marriage to the world)
- Thyatira – Letter to Galatians (Religious externalism)
- Sardis – Letter to the Romans (Definitive gospel or orthodoxy)
- Philadelphia – Letter to the Thessalonians (The raptured Church)
- Laodicea – Letter to the Colossians (only a few miles apart, instructed to trade letters with Laodicea; Greek phrases unique only to these two letters)

The similar pattern of these letters Paul wrote seem to be the signature of the Holy Spirit. This does not prove anything, but how interesting to see the similar patterns is hard no to ignore. Never lose sight of the fact that the real author is not Paul or John, it is the Holy Spirit!