

THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (Matthew 13)

- I. **The Kingdom of Heaven – from the sowing to the harvest**
(Mt. 13:1-17)
 - A. God’s plan for man – to rule over the earth and to subdue the enemy (Gen. 1:26, 28; Heb. 2:5-9)
 - B. Christ’s first coming as the Sower to sow the seeds of the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 4:17, 23; 9:35; 24:14; Mk. 4:14; Jn. 3:3, 5; Acts 28:30-31) – the constitution of the kingdom of heavens (Mt. 5-7)
 - C. The battle for the kingdom (Mt. 11:12; Lk. 16:16)
 1. The mysteries of the kingdom (Mt. 13:11-17; 11:25; 1 Cor. 2:7, 9; Is. 28:7-13; 29:9-14)
 2. Our heart (Mt. 13:15; Is. 6:9-10; Heb. 3:7-13; 4:1-2, 12b)
 3. The church’s spiritual warfare against Satan und his armies (Eph. 6:10-19; 2 Cor. 2:11)
 - D. Christ’s second coming for the harvest and to establish the millennial kingdom
 1. God, our Father, is expecting fruit (Is. 5:1-7; Heb. 6:7-8; Jam. 5:7-8; 2 Pet. 3:9; Mt. 3:8; Lk. 13:6-9)
 2. Entry into the millennial kingdom (Mt. 13:11-12; Lk. 8:18; Mt. 25:14-30; Heb. 4:6-11; 2 Pet. 1:10-11)

- II. **The Parable of the Sower**
(Mt. 13:3-9, 18-23; Mk. 4:1-9, 14-20; Lk. 8:4-8, 11-15)
 - A. The seed and the Sower
 1. The word of the kingdom (Mt. 13:19; Mt. 5-7) – Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:13; Jn. 1:1-3, 14)
 - a. Poor in spirit (Mt. 5:3)
 - b. Pure in heart (Mt. 5:8)

2. The living and abiding word of God (1 Pet. 1:23; Heb. 4:12), not the dead letter (2 Cor. 3:6)
 3. To bring forth the kingdom (Lk. 17:21) – being transformed into His image, then being first fruits and overcomers to reign with Him over the whole earth (Gen 1:26; Rev. 5:9-10; 20:4, 6)
- B. The ground (Gen. 3:17-18)
1. Our heart: the mind, the will, the emotion, and the conscience (Rom. 9:1-2)
 2. The wayside
 - a. A hardened, stony (Zech. 7:11-12; Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Ps. 119:70; Ezek. 36:26; Heb. 5:11) and stubborn heart (Mt. 13:15; Mk. 3:5; Jer. 3:17; 7:24; 9:13; 11:8; 13:10) due to:
 - the love of the world (Rev. 2:4-5; Jam. 4:4; Mt. 22:37-38; 2 Tim. 4:10) and our handling of it (Eph. 4:17-19)
 - the deceitfulness of sin (Heb. 3:13)
 - the rebellion and disobedience toward God (Heb. 3:7-8; Ps. 95:8; Jer. 5:23)
 - spiritual pride and lack of appetite (Rev. 3:17; 1 Cor. 4:8; Dan. 5:20)
 - b. The result: one cannot understand the word, and the evil one, the devil, immediately snatches the word
 3. Stony places that do not have much soil
 - a. A superficial spiritual life, not serious and thorough with spiritual things (Jam. 1:23-24; Prov. 6:9-11; 24:30-34) – just a fleeting joy with the word
 - b. Hidden stones: secret faults (Ps. 19:12)
 - c. No roots: no secret, solid relationship with the Father and no personal handling of the living word (Acts 17:11; Mt. 6:6; Col. 2:6-7; Gal. 1:11-12)
 - d. The result: in time of trials one falls away, not established in the faith (Lk. 8:13; 1 Cor. 11:19; Jam. 1:2-4, 12; 1 Pet. 1:7; Acts 14:22)

4. The ground with thorns and thistles (Mt. 6:19-34; Lk. 21:34-36)
 - a. Having divided capacity, following two goals simultaneously, being lukewarm (Mt. 6:22-24; Rev. 3:16)
 - b. The cares of this world (Mt. 6:25-34; Lk. 10:38-42; Phil. 4:6-7) vs. keeping the Day of Atonement (1 Pet. 5:6-7)
 - c. The deceitfulness of riches (Mt. 6:19-21, 24; Is. 44:20; 1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19; Lk. 6:24) vs. keeping the Feast of Tabernacles (1 Pet. 2:11)
 - d. Lusting for other things (Mt. 6:22-23; Mk. 4:19; 1 Cor. 10:6-11), the pleasures of life (Lk. 8:14)
 - e. The result: the word bears no fruit to maturity (Lk. 8:14)
5. The good ground – a pour, good and noble heart (Mt. 5:8; Lk. 8:15)
 - a. A humble heart (Jam. 1:21; 2 Ki. 22:19; Ps. 51:17; Jer. 33:3)
 - b. A believing heart (Heb. 3:12; 4:2)
 - c. A contrite heart (Mt. 13:15; Is. 57:15; 61:1) that trembles at His word (Is. 66:2)
- C. Bearing fruit for the Father and the entry into the kingdom (Jn. 15:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Jam. 5:7-8; Heb. 6:7-8)
 1. Keeping the heart (Gen. 2:15; Prov. 4:23)
 - a. Get yourselves a new heart; and I will give you a new heart (Ezek. 11:19; 18:31; 36:26-27)
 - b. Daily allow the Lord to test and search the heart, because it is deceitful above all things (Jer. 17:9-10, 14; Ps. 139:23-24; Prov. 20:27; Rev. 2:23; Jer. 11:20; 12:3; 20:12)
 - c. Through constant and thorough repentance (Ps. 51) tilling the ground (Jer. 4:3) and removing the briars and thorns (Is. 5:6; 27:4)

2. Cultivate the heart's ground
 - a. Sow bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6, 10; 2 Tim. 4:2)
 - b. Water the seed (1 Cor. 3:6; Is. 55:10; Mt. 7:7-11)
 - c. Having light for the growth (1 Jn. 1:7)
 - d. Holding fast to the word (Ps. 1:2; Phil. 4:8; Lk. 2:19, 51; Eph. 4:15) and with perseverance bearing fruit (Lk. 8:15; Gal. 5:22-23; Jam. 1:21-25)
3. Yielding fruit hundred-, sixty- and thirty-fold (Gen. 26:12; Mt. 25:14-15; Eph. 4:7)
4. Offering up the best of the fruits, the first fruits, to the worship and enjoyment of the Father (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; Lev. 23:10; Deut. 26:2, 10; Heb. 13:15)

III. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

(Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

- A. The man who sowed good seed (wheat) in his field (vv. 24, 37-38)
 1. Christ, the Son of Man
 - a. The grain of wheat that fell into the earth to bring forth much grain (Jn. 12:24)
 - b. The true bread from heaven (Jn. 6:27-68)
 - c. The reality of the meal offering (Lev. 2) – the fine and perfect humanity of Jesus
 2. Bringing forth the sons of the kingdom in this world
 - a. Living out God's righteousness (Mt. 5-7; Phil. 3:9)
 - b. Being transformed into the same image as His Son (2 Cor. 3:18; Mt. 5:48; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)
 - c. Maturing – to become firstfruits and heirs of the kingdom (Heb. 5:11-6:1; Rev. 14:1-5; Gal. 4:1)
 - d. Shining forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father (v. 43; Mt. 5:14; 24:47; 25:21; Dan. 12:3)
- B. The enemy who sowed tares among the wheat (vv. 25, 38-39)
 1. Satan, the devil, God's enemy

- a. Working in the darkness and in secret (v. 25)
- b. A crafty serpent (2 Cor. 11:3)
- c. Disguised as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
2. Bringing forth the sons of the wicked one in this world
 - a. Tares = darnel: a weed that is very similar to wheat, poisonous and numbing; almost indistinguishable from wheat in its early stages
 - b. False apostles, prophets, teachers and brothers, deceitful and evil workers, raging wolves in sheep's clothing (2 Cor. 11:13-15; Mt. 7:15; 24:24; 2 Pet. 2; 1 Jn. 2:19; 4:1; Gal. 2:4; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:5; Phil. 3:2; Acts 20:29-30; Jer. 23:16-17)
 - c. Those that offend and practice lawlessness (v. 41) – deceive God's people and lead many to destruction (Mt. 7:13, 21-23; 15:14; 23:13; 24:4-5, 11-12, 24; Rom. 16:18; Eph. 5:6; 2 Thess. 2:3; Rom. 2:24)
 - d. Will be cast into the furnace of fire where there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth (v. 42; Mt. 22:13; 24:48-51; 25:30)
- C. The wheat and tares grow together until the harvest (vv. 28-30)
 1. The harvest – the end of the age (v. 39; Rev. 14)
 2. You will know them by their fruits (Mt. 7:15-20; 1 Jn. 3:10; Gal. 5:19-24; Mal. 3:18)
 3. Growing together in the world, but not in the church (1 Cor. 5:9-13) – learn to discern (Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 5:14; Lev. 10:10; Ezek. 22:26; 44:23; Prov. 4:1; 1 Cor. 5:6-7)
- D. The spiritual warfare of the church (Mt. 11:12)
 1. Not wrestling against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers of darkness (Eph. 6:10-18)
 2. Not with carnal weapons (2 Cor. 10:3-6)
 3. Having the power to bind and to loose (Mt. 16:19; 18:18; 28:18-20; Jam. 5:16-18)

4. Not being ignorant and sleeping (2 Cor. 2:11; Mt. 13:25a), but watching and praying (Mt. 26:41; Lk. 21:36; Eph. 5:14; 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:6-8, 17; Rom. 13:11-12; Is. 62:6-7)
5. Not sowing to the flesh, but sowing to the Spirit (Gal. 6:8); not giving place to the devil (Eph. 4:27)

IV. The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven – the Mutation of the Kingdom of Heaven

(Matt. 13:31-33)

A. The mustard seed

1. The pure, simple and living beginning of the kingdom of heaven (Acts 2:40-47; Lk. 17:6; Ps. 127:1; Heb. 8:2; 9:24; Zech. 4:10; Lk. 12:32)
2. Having begun in the Spirit (Gal. 3:3; Heb. 12:2; Gal. 5:7)

B. The mutation of the mustard seed into a tree (Gen. 1:11-12; 11:3-4; Dan. 4:19; Rev. 17:18; Acts 20:21)

1. The church became great and powerful (Rev. 2:12-17; Pergamos = elevation, marriage)
 - a. The doctrine of Balaam: serving God for shameful gain (money, honor)
 - b. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans: the clergy-laity system – the pastoral system, hierarchy
2. Babylon, the great harlot (Rev. 17:1, 5, 18; 18:2)
3. The birds come and nest in its branches (Rev. 18:2; 1 Tim. 4:1-3)
4. God will judge Babylon and all who are in it (Rev. 17:16-17; 18:4-8; Is. 47:7-11)

C. The three measures of fine flour

1. The church as the new lump – the new man (1 Cor. 5:7; 2 Cor. 11:2-3; 5:17; Col. 3:10)
2. The pure word of truth (2 Pet. 1:19-21; 1 Pet. 2:2; Eph. 1:17-18)

- D. The woman with the leaven
 - 1. Jezebel in the letter to the church in Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)
 - 2. Babylon, the mother of harlots with her many daughters (Rev. 17:5; Is. 1:21)
 - a. A harlot: God's people who were unfaithful to Him and played the harlot with many things (Ezek. 16:15-17; Rev. 2:4; Jam. 4:4; 2 Cor. 11:2-3)
 - b. Mixture with the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Mt. 16:6; 2 Pet. 3:16)
 - c. Confusion (Gal. 1:6-7; Gen. 11:7)
 - d. Division and scattering (Gen. 11:8-9; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Gal. 5:20)
 - 3. Seeing Babylon for what it is in the Spirit (Rev. 17:3)
 - a. The mother: the Roman Catholic Church with all her abominations (Rev. 17:9)
 - b. The many daughters: state churches,
 - c. denominations, free churches, groups and movements built by man (Rev. 17:5; Ps. 127:1)
- E. Overcoming the fallen condition of Babylon today to build Zion
 - 1. Come out of her, My people, because Babylon cannot be healed (Rev. 18:4; Is. 48:20; Heb. 13:13-14; Jer. 51:9)
 - 2. Follow the Lamb to Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22; Rev. 14:1-5)
 - a. Build up Zion in love (Acts 2:46-47; Ps. 102:16; Eph. 4:16; Rom. 12:13)
 - b. Not desiring to have a reputation, but being humble and holy (Phil. 2:5-8; Mt. 23:8)
 - c. Keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread (1 Cor. 5:7-8)
 - 3. Remaining faithful to the end and pressing towards the goal (Ezek. 3:20; Heb. 3:6, 14)

V. **The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price** (Mt. 13:44-46)

- A. The parable of the hidden treasure (v. 44)
 - 1. The field – the earth, i.e. the world, that belongs to the Lord (Mt. 13:38; Ps. 24:1-2)
 - 2. The man that sold everything that he had to buy the field – Christ, who gave His life to redeem and possess the whole earth (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:20; Phil. 2:5-8)
 - 3. The treasure – the glory of the kingdom that was hidden from the foundation of the world (Mt. 13:35; 25:34)
 - a. Christ, the King, in the saints (2 Cor. 4:7; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:26-28; 2:3; 2.Thess. 1:10)
 - b. The saints – kings and priests (Ps. 16:3; Ex. 19:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10)
 - c. The treasure was found and hidden again (Lk. 17:20-21; Rom. 8:18-23; 1 Jn. 3:1-2; Is. 53)
 - 4. The kingdom will be revealed on earth when Christ returns (Rev. 19:11-16; 20:6)
- B. The parable of the pearl of great price (vv. 45-46)
 - 1. The sea – the fallen and corrupt world (Mt. 13:47; Mk. 5:13; Rev. 13:1; 21:1b)
 - 2. The merchant – Christ, who has invested all that He had to purchase the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 5:25; Mt. 25:14-30; Is. 5:1-7)
 - 3. The pearl – the glory and beauty of the bride, the church (Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:2, 10-11)
 - a. Her formation – the salvation and transformation of the soul through sufferings and trials (1 Pet. 1:9; Rom. 8:17-18; Col. 1:24; Heb. 2:10; 12:5-11; Jam. 1:2-4, 12; 1 Pet. 1:7; 4:12-19; Phil. 1:19; 3:10)
 - b. Hidden in the oyster – abiding in Christ (Jn. 15:4-8; 17:21-24; 1 Jn. 2:27-28; Col. 3:3)
 - c. In the sea – in the world, but not of this world (Jn. 17:11-18; Acts 26:17-18; Gal. 1:4; Phil. 2:15)

4. The New Jerusalem – each of the twelve gates consists of a single pearl (Rev. 21:21; Heb. 7:25)
- C. Seeing the glory and the preciousness of His kingdom and fully giving oneself for it (Mt. 11:25-27; 13:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:8-12; 2:7; Heb. 11:25-27; 12:2)
 1. Poor in spirit, pure in heart, and being seeking (Mt. 5:3, 8; 6:19-21, 33; 7:6-8; Phil. 3:7-14; Jer. 33:3)
 2. Selling all and giving the Lord the best (Mt. 19:16-22; Lk. 14:26-33; Mk. 12:30; Gen. 22:1-3)
 3. By practicing the priesthood and offering up the spiritual sacrifices (1 Pet. 2:5; Ex. 34:26)
 - a. The burnt offering – to be absolute for God and His will (Jn. 4:34; 8:29; Heb. 10:7)
 - b. The meal offering – to gain the substance of Christ for His kingdom (Jn. 6:57; Eph. 4:24; Mt. 5-7)
 - c. The peace offering – to be fully reconciled to God (Eph. 2:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:20; Rom. 5:10)
 - d. The sin offering – to be sanctified through and through (Heb. 12:4, 12-14; 1 Thess. 5:23)
 - e. The trespass offering – to rise again after defeat (Prov. 24:16; Rom. 8:1; 1 Jn. 1:9)
 - f. The drink offering – to give your whole life to God (Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6)

VI. The Different Harvests at the End of this Age

- A. God expects a harvest from His people (Is. 5:1-7; Lk. 13:6-7)
 1. Christ, the Farmer (Jam. 5:7; 2 Tim. 2:6)
 2. Bringing forth the matured fruits (Heb. 5:11 - 6:1)
 3. Today God already requires us to worship Him with the best part of the harvest, an offering without blemish (Ex. 34:26)
 4. A warning (Heb. 6:7-8)

B. The believers

1. The living – there are *two* on the field and at the mill (Mt. 24:40-41)
 - a. First fruits – raptured to Mount Zion (Jam. 1:18; Rev. 14:1-5)
 - b. The general harvest – raptured to the air at the sound of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 14:14-16; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-52)
 - c. Martyrs of the last 3½ years – raptured to the sea of glass before God’s throne (Rev. 15:1-4)
2. The dead – the *ten* virgins (Mt. 25:1, 5)
 - a. The male Child (the overcomers, the wise virgins) – raptured to God’s throne (Rev. 12:5, 11; Mt. 25:4, 10)
 - b. The woman (the foolish virgins) – flees to the wilderness for 3½ years (Rev. 12:6; Mt. 25:3, 11)
3. The judgment seat of Christ in the air (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10)

C. The unbelievers

1. The living (see point VII.)
2. The dead – waiting in Hades for judgment at the great white throne; their end is the lake of fire (Rev. 20:5, 11-15)

VII. The Parable of the Dragnet and of the Sheep and Goats
(Matt. 13:47-50; 25:31-46)

- A. The eternal gospel preached in the last 3½ years: “Fear God and give glory to Him” (Rev. 14:6-7)
 1. The good ones are the sheep
 - a. They accept the eternal gospel
 - b. They cared for, clothed and visited the persecuted Christians and Jews in prison during the last 3½ years

2. The bad ones are the goats
 - a. They reject the eternal gospel
 - b. They do not care to help the persecuted Christians and Jews in the last 3½ years
- B. The throne of Christ's glory – the judgment over the nations (Mt. 25:31; Acts 17:31; Jude 14-15; Ps. 149:5-9)
 1. The good ones (the sheep) inherit the kingdom – they will enter the millennial kingdom as the nations
 2. The bad ones (the goats) will be the first to be thrown into the lake of fire – eternal punishment
- C. Preaching the gospel of kingdom – while it is still called “today” (Heb. 3:13; 1 Cor. 6:2)