

THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

(Matthew 13, 24, 25)

Introduction

- I. God's Plan – His Kingdom on the earth
 - A. Man created in God's image to rule on the earth over creation (Gen. 1:26; Ps. 8:5-8)
 - B. Subdue the enemy (Gen. 1:28)
- II. God's enemy – frustrating God's plan
 - A. Preventing man from accomplishing God's goals – serving Satan rather than serving God (1 John 5:19; Matt. 4:8-9)
 - B. War against society and mankind.
 1. Removing knowledge of God (Rom. 1:28)
 2. Religion – replacing God with false gods
 3. Corruption of society
 - a. Entertainment, commerce, materialism
 - b. Normalization of sin – “tolerance”, “diversity”, “inclusion”
 - C. War against the church
 1. Dead religion & defilement (mixture)
 - a. Division (Matt 12:25)
 - b. Clergy/laity
 - c. Money-making
 - d. “Christian” entertainment
 - e. Sin (1 Cor. 5:6)
 2. Spiritual blindness & false teachings (Matt. 24:24; 2 Cor. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:14; 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:1; Rev. 12:9)
- III. God's kingdom today – the church
 - A. A mystery – the church, God's plan, the kingdom (Matt. 13:11-17; 11:25; 1 Cor. 2:7)
 - B. Role of the church
 1. Salt and light of the earth (Matt. 5:13)
 2. Lamp on a hill (Matt. 5:14)

3. Spreading the truth and making disciples (Matt. 28:19)
4. Fighting against the enemy (Eph. 6:10-13)
5. Represent the kingdom in holiness, righteousness, oneness, submission under the King

The Parable of the Sower **(Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23)**

- I. Sowing the seed, the word of the kingdom of God
(Matt. 13:18; Mark 4:14; Luke 8:5, 11; James 1:21-22)
- II. The condition of our heart
 - A. Hardened ground (Matt. 13:19; Mark 4:4, 14-15; Luke 8:5, 12)
 1. Wayside – trampled down
 2. Does not understand
 3. Birds, Satan, the devil, snatches the word from the heart
 - a. Prevent you from believing and be saved
 - b. Hardened hearts will not hear the Lord's speaking
(Heb. 3:8, 12-15; 4:7)
 - B. Stony soil – hidden stones (Matt. 13:5-6, 20-21; Mark 4:5-6, 16-17; Luke 8:6, 13)
 1. Receives the word with joy
 2. Has no roots
 3. No depth of earth, not grounded
 4. Lacked moisture
 5. Tribulation or persecution, temptation comes, withers away, immediately is stumbled and falls away
 - C. Fill with thorns and thistles (Matt. 13:22; Mark 4:7, 18-19; Luke 8:7, 14)
 1. Chokes the word because of the –
 - a. Cares of the world
 - b. Deceitfulness of riches
 - c. Desires for other things
 - d. Pleasures of life chokes the word
 2. Results in either no fruits or no fruits of maturity

- D. Good ground (Matt. 13:23; Mark 4:8, 20; Luke 8:8, 15; Matt. 5:8)
 - 1. Hears the word and receives it
 - 2. Noble and good heart
 - 3. Keeps the word and bear fruit with patience
 - 4. Takes time and labor
 - a. Get a new heart (Ezek. 18:30-32; 36:26-27)
 - b. Be rooted and grounded in Christ (Eph. 3:17; Col. 2:7)
 - c. Take heed not be snared (Luke 21:34-36)
- III. Bearing much fruit – one hundredfold, sixty and thirty (Matt. 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15)
 - A. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)
 - B. Offerings to the Father (Exo. 23:15-16, 19; Deut. 16:15-17)
 - C. Good vs. bad fruit (Matt. 12:33-37)

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

- I. The Son of Man, bringing forth the sons of the kingdom in this world – the wheat sown in his field
 - A. The Son of Man – the Messiah-King
 - 1. The grain of wheat to bring forth many grains (John 12:24)
 - 2. The true bread which came down from heaven (John 6:27, 32-35, 48-51, 53-58, 61-63, 68)
 - 3. The meal offering – the fine and perfect humanity of Jesus (Lev. 2)
 - B. The sons of the Kingdom – the wheat sown in his field (earth)
 - 1. Being nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine (1 Tim. 4:6-8)
 - 2. Being transformed into the same image – be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (2 Cor. 3:18; Matt. 5:48; Rom. 12:2)

3. Being sons of light (John 12:36; 1 Thess. 5:5; Eph. 5:8)
 4. Being mature in life – becoming the firstfruits (Eph. 4:13-14; Heb. 5:11-14; 6:1; Rev. 14:1-5)
 5. Being heirs of the Kingdom, co-heirs with Christ (Gal. 4:1)
 6. Putting on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11-13)
- II. The Enemy, Satan, bringing forth the wicked ones in this world – the tares (weeds) sown among the wheat
- A. The sons of the wicked ones
 1. False apostles (2 Cor. 11:13-15)
 2. False prophets, false teachers (Matt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2, 1 John 4:1)
 3. False Brethren (1 Tim. 4:1-3)
 4. To deceive secretly
 5. To lead many to destruction
- III. Wheat and tares look much alike, almost indistinguishable in the early stages
- IV. “Let both grow together” – co-exist in this world, but not in the church (1 Cor. 5:9-13)
- V. The spiritual warfare of the church
- A. Not ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11)
 - B. Not with carnal weapons (2 Cor. 10:3-6)
 - C. Not against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:10-18)
 - D. Having the power to bind and to loose (Matt. 16:19; 18:18)
 - E. Watch and pray (Matt. 26:41; Luke 21:36; Eph. 6:18)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven (Matt. 13:31-33)

- I. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31-32)
 - A. Herb became a tree
 - B. Babylon being a big tree, birds made their home (Dan. 4:20-21)

- C. Babylon the great is fallen (Dan. 4:23; Rev. 18:1-4)
- II. The Parable of the Leaven (Matt. 13:33)
 - A. Leaven – not accepted by God (Exo. 12:15; 13:7; Lev. 23:15-17)
 - B. Hidden and little (Gal. 5:9)
 - C. False prophets - to deceive (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Matt. 24:11, 23-28)
 - D. Doctrine of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herod (Matt. 16:12, Mark 8:15)
 - E. Hypocrisy (Luke 12:1)
 - F. Immorality (1 Cor. 5:1-8; Gal. 5:13; Rev. 2:20)
 - G. Tradition of men (Col. 2:8)
- III. To defeat the enemy
 - A. Follow the Lamb (Rev. 12:11; 14:4-5)
 - B. Keeping the feasts (1 Cor. 5:7-8)

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl (Matt. 13:44-46)

- I. Parable of hidden treasure (Matt. 13:44)
 - A. Field – the earth (Matt. 13:38)
 - B. Treasure – the glory of the kingdom
 - C. Glory is hidden from time of the earth's foundation to the coming of Christ
 - D. "The Man" – Christ who revealed the glory but the Jews rejected it; discovered some faithful ones – the disciples
 - E. Hidden again – today the glory of the kingdom, through the Church, is hidden to the world
 - F. Sold all he had and bought the field – Christ gave up His life in order to possess the whole earth (1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 20:28)
 - G. The kingdom will be revealed on earth when Christ returns (Rev. 19:11-16; 20:6; 21:1-2; 22:3)
- II. Parable of the pearl of great price (Matt. 13:45)
 - A. Pearl – glory and beauty of the church

1. Searching for pearls – found one of great price (the best and most valuable).
 2. Transformation and perfection required through trials and suffering (Eph. 5:25-27)
 3. Gates of New Jerusalem made of a single pearl (Rev. 21:21)
- B. Sold all – Christ’s sacrifice to purchase the glorious church (1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 20:28)
- III. Have we discovered and seen the glory of the kingdom and are also willing to give all for it?
- A. Kingdom should not be a mystery to us, but clearly visible in our spirit
 - B. The church is the foretaste of the glory of Christ’s coming kingdom, so Satan tries to defile the church.
 - C. We think we understand the kingdom, but in practice we don’t live the kingdom life because our heart is set on earthly treasures
 - D. Is God’s kingdom precious to us?
- IV. Are we participating in the growth of the pearl?
- A. Perfecting and preparation of the church
 - B. Understand the preciousness, holiness, and glory of the church for Christ

The Signs of the Time and the Raptures **(Matt. 24:32-44; 25:1-13)**

- I. The signs of time
 - A. Days of Noah (Matt. 24:38-39; Luke 17:26-27; 21:34; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Gen 6:11)
 1. Eating and drinking, marrying
 2. Lovers of themselves and pleasure – the “me” generation
 3. Violence - world is more dangerous
 - B. Days of Lot (Luke 17:28-33; Gen. 19:4-5; Rom. 1:24-32)
 - C. Regarding Israel (Matt. 24:32-35; Luke 21:20-24;

Dan. 9:27)

II. Raptures

A. The firstfruits (Matt. 24:40-41; Luke 17:34-36;
Rev. 14:1-5)

1. The living Christians who matured early will be taken during daily life
2. Raptured to the throne
3. The unfaithful living Christians left behind on the earth and persecuted by the beast (Rev. 13:7; 12:17)

B. The wise virgins, the male-child, the overcomers
(Matt. 25:1-13; Rev. 12:5; 19:7-9)

1. Parable of the 10 virgins
2. The wise virgins, male-child, raptured to the throne (Rev. 12:5)
3. The foolish virgins, the woman, left on the earth in the wilderness (Rev. 12:6)
 - a. Protected from persecution in the wilderness during the 3½ years of the great day of God's wrath (Rev. 12:13-16)
 - b. Rapture only to the air in the general harvest at the 7th trumpet (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

III. Watch and prepare (Matt. 24:42-44; 25:13)

The Faithful and the Evil Servant (Matt. 24:45-51; 25:14-30)

I. The faithful servant

- A. Watchful (Matt. 24:44)
- B. Gives the household food in due season (Matt. 24:45)
- C. Receives reward (Matt. 24:47)

II. The evil servant

- A. Presumptuous sin (Matt. 24:48; Ps. 19:13)
- B. Fighting against fellow servants – resisting the Word and the Spirit (Phil. 3:18-19; Is. 56:12)
- C. Receives punishment (Matt. 24:51)

III. The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30)

- A. The master entrusted his goods to the servants
- B. Everyone received his own portions – do not compare (1 Cor.12:12-27)
- C. Serve diligently
- D. Do not bury the talents

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

- I. The judgment of the nations – the gathering of all unbelievers (1 Cor. 6:2-3; Ps.149:5-9)
 - A. At the end of the age
 - 1. Which is the great day of God’s wrath
 - 2. After the battle of Armageddon (Matt. 25:31-32)
 - 3. When Christ sits on the throne of His glory (Matt. 25:31; Acts 17:31; Jude 1:14-15)
 - 4. The gathering of all unbelievers
 - a. The sea referring to the world (Rev. 17:1, 15; Ps. 65:7)
 - b. Fish referring to all the people
 - B. Eternal gospel preached during the 3½ years to the unbelievers (Rev. 14:6-7)
 - C. Good fish are the sheep
 - 1. Those who accepted the eternal gospel
 - 2. Will help and give aid to the persecuted saints and Jews
 - 3. Will inherit – continue to live as the nations in the millennial kingdom
 - D. Bad fish are the goats
 - 1. Those who rejected the eternal gospel
 - 2. Who did not care to help the persecuted saints and Jews
 - 3. Will be cast alive into the lake of fire – eternal punishment
- II. Sound the trumpet and preach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven to warn the unbelievers – be a fisher of men (Matt. 4:19)