

(Matt. 13:24-30) – THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES – While the Gospel goes out into the world in the power of the Spirit to gather God’s elect into the kingdom, Satan will be active in deceiving people and establishing them in false, self-righteous, free-will religion. The Lord explained this parable in *Matthew 13:36-43*.

(Matt. 13:36-38) – Christ sows “*THE GOOD SEED,*” which are “*THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM.*” Through the preaching of the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ brings God’s elect, His children, into the kingdom of God. He brings them to faith in Himself and repentance of dead works. It is interesting to note that the word translated “seed” here is not the same as the “seed” in the parable of the soils (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23). In the parable of the sower, “seed” is the spore that a farmer plants in the ground and symbolizes the Gospel Word planted by Christ through His preachers. Here, the word “seed” refers to offspring, children born of the Spirit (cf. 1 John 3:9).

“*THE FIELD IS THE WORLD*” – Christ has a people all over the world, out of every nation, both Jew and Gentile. When He saves them by His grace and brings them into His kingdom, they become one spiritual nation together in Christ (Rom. 2:28-29; 9:6-8; Gal. 3:26-29). Believers are children of the kingdom by the election and adoption of grace, chosen in Christ before the world began (Eph. 1:3-7), and children by divine regeneration where they are given life from Christ by the Holy Spirit and brought to faith and repentance (Gal. 4:4-6). “*THE TARES ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE WICKED ONE*” – They are mere professors of religion, some even professing to be “Christians” but Christians in name only, not believing and abiding in the doctrine of Christ.

(Matt. 13:39-43) – These tares are children of Satan, the “*WICKED ONE*” who sowed them in the world (John 8:44). Recall how when Christ first spoke this parable, He said that these tares were sown “*WHILE MEN SLEPT.*” This could mean while true believers became weary and neglectful to guard the truth. Paul recognized this in some of the early churches (Rom. 13:11-12; Eph. 5:14; 1 Thess. 5:6). Throughout this New Covenant age, Satan will be actively sowing these tares, false believers and false churches.

Christ also said that when these tares grow, His servants recognized them and asked, “*SIR, DIDST NOT THOU SOW GOOD SEED IN THY FIELD? FROM WHENCE THEN HATH IT TARES?*” We recognize these tares by their false doctrine and/or their compromise (Isa. 8:20; 2 Cor. 11:1-4; Gal. 1:3-6; 2 John 9-11). The servants then asked, “*WILT THOU THEN THAT WE GO AND GATHER THEM UP?*,” meaning to destroy them. The Lord said, “*NAY; LEST WHILE YE GATHER UP THE TARES, YE ROOT UP ALSO THE WHEAT WITH THEM.*” It may be that within these tares there are some of God’s elect that have yet to be brought into the kingdom. It may be that there are some brethren

who have been led astray and can yet be recovered (Gal. 5:1-10; James 5:19-20; Jude 23).

The Lord said, *“LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST”* – This *“HARVEST”* is *“THE END OF THE WORLD”* when Christ sends forth His *“ANGELS”* (the reapers) to gather His church (the wheat) and judge all who are found in their sins (the tares). In the end, when all of creation has been brought to the purpose and goal of the Lord, He will permanently separate the righteous from the wicked (Matt. 25:31-32). The tares, which are offensive to God because they are sinful and workers of iniquity (Psa. 1:5-6; 5:5; Matt. 7:21-23), will be cast into hell. The children of the Lord will shine in the righteousness of Christ.

“WHO HATH EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR” – Let all who hear this parable with God-given understanding learn that in this world, there are true children of God (believers) and there are false believers. Some false believers are obvious because of their false doctrines and compromise. Others are so close that if it were possible, they could “deceive the very elect” (Matt. 24:24). When the end comes, Christ will separate all of His true sheep from all of the goats and deal with them accordingly.

(Matt. 13:31-32) – THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED – The kingdom of Christ (His church) starts out small, but it grows into a larger number as God is not willing that any of His people perish but that all would come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). All whom God chose before the world began are justified and redeemed by His grace through the merits of Christ’s obedience unto death, and they all will be born again (regenerated and converted) by the Holy Spirit and brought to faith in Christ and true repentance. The *“BIRDS OF THE AIR”* lodging in its branches shows that God has a people from every nation who are brought to rest comfortably and safely with brethren in the care of Christ. It is a multitude of saints, washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5) and accepted in Him (Eph. 1:6).

(Matt. 13:33) – THE PARABLE OF THE LEAVEN – In the Bible, leaven is often a type of sin (1 Cor. 5:6-8) and false doctrine (Matt. 16:5-12). But here it typifies the kingdom of heaven and the truth as it is in Christ. The church on earth began when the Lord gathered a few people and began to spread the message of God’s grace. The Gospel in the power of the Spirit will spread throughout the world and all of God’s people shall be saved. Not one of them will perish (John 6:37-45; 10:11-30; Rom. 8:28-39).

(Matt. 13:34-35) – Again we see how Christ speaking in parables is according to God’s sovereign will and purpose and as a judgment against those who refuse to receive the truth. In parables, the Lord revealed truth to His children and concealed it from the rebellious. Herein He fulfilled the prophecy of old concerning Himself and His mission (Psa. 78:1-2).