MATTHEW 13:24-33

A. *The Second Parable is That of the Wheat and Tares. (Christ again gives the meaning of this parable.)

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 - Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: Matt. 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. Matt. 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. Matt. 13:27 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? Matt. 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? Matt. 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Matt. 13:30 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. Matt. 13:36 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. Matt. 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; Matt. 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one;* Matt. 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. Matt. 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. Matt. 13:41 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; Matt. 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

1. It is showing there are two sowers. One man (Jesus) sowed the good seed (**truth**) and the other man (enemy-Satan) sowed the bad seed (**false** doctrine).

2. The good seed is the "wheat" - children of God, **King**dom believers; whereas, the "tares" are children of the wicked one. The workers are told to let them both grow together **until** harvest. The harvest is the end of the age (Tribulation). The reapers are the angels sent to gather the tares from the Kingdom. Since they are of the evil one, they will be plucked and cast into the **fire** (vs. 40-42).

3. Those who remain are **left** on earth to enjoy the Kingdom. Since these events take place at the Tribulation's end as Christ returns to earth, it is another reason to believe these parables pertain to Israel and the Tribulation and **never** to the Body of Christ.

4. Notice:
   Matthew 24:37-42 - But as the days of Noe *were,* so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matt. 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, Matt. 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matt. 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Matt. 24:41 Two *women shall be* grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Matt. 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

   Matthew 3:11-12 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: Matt. 3:12 Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

John 1:29 - The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

5. Also notice in verse 25, it says [But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat.]

   a. The Lord is giving some **in**sight that there will be a **cess**ation of apostolic work, "while men slept". During their absence, Satan will be at work sowing his seed (tares).

   b. Question? When did the Apostles (12) sleep?

      John 9:4 - [I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.]

      When Christ was on earth, it was "day**time" for Israel. When the Holy Spirit was sent at Pentecost, it was still "daytime" for Israel. But when Israel was set aside, the "**night** time" arrived and the prophetic purpose and apostolic ministry was temporarily suspended. However, Satan has **con**tinued to sow the kingdom gospel even up to today.

   c. When one hears the gospel of the kingdom of heaven preached today, it is **in**accurate. Kingdom Apostles are asleep, but Satan continues to have his and other ministers preaching this legalistic gospel **apart** from Israel. This has helped to confuse and **mis**lead Christendom.

   d. Today, when we think of Christendom's Kingdom of Heaven, we can't help but think of a **cor**rupt system. It is within the "Christian religion" that we see the unsaved attempting to bring in the Kingdom, **apart** from the prophesied head nation of Israel. This satanic system has **con**tinued to grow despite the setting aside of Israel and "night time".

B. The Third Parable is That of the Mustard Seed:

> Matthew 13:31-32 - 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: Matt. 13:32 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.

1. The birds have already been identified as Satan and his forces in verses 4 and 19. The mustard seed is known for its **quick** growth, even coming from its smallest seed.

2. The interpretation, as I see it at this time, is that the kingdom gospel will be preached in early Acts, rejected by the nation Israel, but will **re**sume to be proclaimed during the Tribulation. But going on simultaneously is Satan's **evil** system. Israel became apostate and Satan has used Israel's **plat**form to control Christendom's scenario.

   Examples: "Thy kingdom come"/ "endure to the end shall be saved"/ "repent and be baptized for the remission of sins"/ tithing/ Sermon on the Mount, etc.

3. At first in Acts 2-7, there were **some** who believed the kingdom message. But Satan's system (Christ-haters) grew to **over**take the 12's ministry and grew and grew, until his evil religious system has been in charge with a **false** majority.

a. **Satan has taken the **root** of the true Israel mustard seed and developed a **mon**strosity-unnatural tree. The kingdom truth was swallowed up by Satan's counterfeit religion. The birds landed (unsaved) on this tree to squat and mess. They symbolize Satan's emissaries producing corruptness and spiritual wickedness to contaminate **pure** doctrine with Satan's lies.

b. Also, this will be true when the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation. There will be a move of God at the **begin**ning of the Tribulation (as in Acts 2-7) with the two witnesses and the 144,000. But Satan's evil system with Antichrist will again overtake **true** Israel, with his birds (demons) lodging in its apostate system.

*Jesus said in Matthew 18:7-8 - [Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Matt. 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.]

He is saying that corrupt teaching will **pervade the entire earth. There will be lots of religion, but it denies the true God.

Matthew 7:23 - And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Revelation 2:9 - I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

C. The Fourth Parable is That of Leaven:

> Matthew 13:33 - 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.

1. Jesus gives another reason for the kingdom's **de**lay. It is that spiritually Israel and the world will **pro**gressively grow more evil (as the other parables have taught).

2. "Leaven" throughout the Bible is always likened to something **evil**. Leaven, if not controlled, will rise-grow and sour. Remember this.

3. Post Millennialism - teaches that mankind, not Israel, will through love, good deeds, the work of the church, and education **bring** in the kingdom.

   a. They say, the "woman" in this parable is the church and she will bring the leaven of the **gospel** to the world and grow-infiltrate it with goodness. How's that going today in the world?

   b. Covenant Theology says the church has **re**placed Israel and has become "spiritual Israel". This is known as A-millennialism or Replacement Theology. They believe the "woman" is the church, the leaven is the gospel, and the kingdom is already **here**.

4. Both views are wrong and have huge errors!

   a. [leaven] throughout the Bible represents evil that always **spreads**.

Matthew 16:6, 11-12 - Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. Matt. 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake *it* not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Matt. 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade *them* not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

b. Also, the [woman] in Bible prophecy represents **false** religion and wickedness - I Kings 18-21 - Jezebel.

Revelation 2:20 - Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 17:3-5 - So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. Rev. 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: Rev. 17:5 And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

c. In light of just these few verses, it is unbelievable that there are those who would interpret [leaven] and [woman] to refer to the **church** as "spiritual Israel" and the **gospel** as leaven.

5. The correct interpretation of this parable continues the theme of the previous parables. They show that evil will spread and the **sad** thing is that, in Acts and in the Tribulation, Israel as a nation will follow the woman and Satan.

Note: Even when the Kingdom-Millennium begins, faith in Christ Messiah reigns. But, by its **end**, Satan is loosed and a great rebellion **grows**.

There will be no kingdom of absolute righteousness **until God creates the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:1, 4).

D. So We Have Learned:

1. The sower and the soils - During Acts 2-7 and the Tribulation, there will be four kinds of hearts and only **one** good ground that produces true fruit (true Israel).

Satan will be there to oppose and do **everything he can to keep one from receiving the true kingdom message.

2. The wheat and tares - As the wheat is the children of God (remnant), the tares are the unbelievers. They will grow **next** to one another only to be separated when Christ returns. The ones taken **away** will be cast into the fire, but those who **re**main (true Messiah believers) will be left to go into the Kingdom.

3. The mustard seed - During the presentation of the kingdom message in early Acts and early in the Tribulation, there will be **some** early converts - thus early excitement.

But **simultaneously Satan and his birds corrupt the truth by creating a monstrosity of apostate **church** religion.

4. The leaven - During the Acts period in Israel and resuming in the Tribulation, evil will grow and spread in Satan's move to do away with Israel. Remember he **hates** her - she produced Christ. Satan will persecute the true believers of Israel, but **sadly** the majority of Israelites-Jews will believe the **lie** and follow Satan!