

SUMMARY

PARABLES OF MATTHEW 13

1. The parable of **the sower** (13:1–9, 18–23).

Teaches that the gospel of the kingdom has been presented but without production in Israel. There will be some in the Tribulation who hear, understand and produce fruit which prepares them for the kingdom.

2. The parable of the **wheat and tares** (13:24–30, 36–43).

- Teaches there will be true believers and unbelievers during this time. The difference between them can be easily distinguished, but we are to allow them to exist side by side and wait for the Lord to get rid of the weeds.
- There is not to be an attempt to rid the world of unbelievers. The separation between believer and unbeliever will not be made until the Second Advent.

3. The parable of the **mustard seed** (13:31–32).

Teaches that apostasy will continue to increase until the Lord returns at the 2nd Advent.

4. The parable of **the leaven** (13:33).

The parable of the leaven working its way through the meal teaches evil will increase with moral and doctrinal corruption as the age progresses.

5. The parable of the **hidden treasure** (13:44)

Teaches that Christ came to purchase Israel. However, Israel will remain in unbelief throughout the course of the mystery age and will not be converted until the age's conclusion.

6. The parable of the **pearl of great price** (13:45-46)

Refers to Israel who has been redeemed by the death of Christ, Who paid the greatest price for them.

7. The parable of the **dragnet** (13:47-50)

Teaches the coexistence of the righteous and the wicked throughout the age only to be separated by Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

8. The parable of the **householder** (13:51-52)

Teaches that these kingdom mysteries must be considered alongside Old Testament kingdom truth if one is to understand the totality of God's kingdom agenda.

In sum, when these eight parables are taken together, the Lord reveals the spiritual conditions that will prevail in the world during an interim period when the kingdom is not present, from the time of Israel's rejection of Christ in Matthew 12 until the 2nd Advent of Christ to the earth.

- Some things take place while Jesus is still on the earth before His ascension into heaven,
- Other conditions prevail during the course of the Church Age,
- Others will take place during the Tribulation before the return of Christ to establish the kingdom on earth.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS
LIKE ...

The kingdom of heaven is like **a man who sowed** good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

(Matt. 13:24-25)

The kingdom of heaven is like **a mustard seed**, which a man took and sowed in his field.
(Matt. 13:31)

The kingdom of heaven is like **leaven**, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened. (Matt. 13:33)

The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field.
(Matt. 13:44)

The kingdom of heaven is like **a merchant** seeking beautiful pearls.
(Matt. 13:45)

The kingdom of heaven is like **a dragnet** that was cast into the sea ... they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.
(Matt. 13:47-48)

The kingdom of heaven is like a **householder** who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.
(Matt. 13:52)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven
is like **a certain king**

(Matt. 18:23; 20:1; 22:2)

Then the kingdom of heaven shall
be likened to **ten virgins**.
(Matt. 25:1)

For *the kingdom of heaven* is like
a man traveling to a far country.
(Matt. 25:14)