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The Kingdom Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Kingdom Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds.

Topics.

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Wheat and weeds sown in the same field

- **Matthew 13:24-30:** He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed *good seed* in his field ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and *sowed weeds* among the *wheat* and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the *weeds* appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow *good seed* in your field? How then does it have *weeds*?' ²⁸He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the *weeds* you root up the *wheat* along with them. ³⁰Let *both grow together* until the harvest and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the *weeds* first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the *wheat* into my barn."

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Jesus speaks this parable to the multitudes, but then leaves the crowds with his disciples and they ask him for the interpretation of it.

The Kingdom of Heaven: Matthew is the only one that records this parable there is no record of it in the books of Mark, Luke or John. The title in this verse, the Kingdom of Heaven does not mean that the Kingdom is in heaven. The following Scriptures are just a few of the many that show that the Kingdom of Heaven is the same as the Kingdom of God.

Matthew wrote:

- Jesus answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *kingdom of heaven*, but to them it has not been given (Matt. 13:11).

Mark wrote:

- Jesus said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the *Kingdom of God*, but for those outside everything is in parables (Mark 4:11).

Luke wrote:

- Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *Kingdom of God*, but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand (Luke 8:10).

Matthew wrote:

- Jesus told them another parable. “The *kingdom of heaven* is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened” (Matt. 13:33).

Luke wrote:

- Jesus said, “Whereunto shall I liken the *Kingdom Of God*? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened (Luke 13:20-21).

These verses clearly show that the Kingdom of Heaven refers to God’s present Kingdom on earth.

A brief overview

Jesus goes on to explain to his disciples that at the end of this world angels will gather out of God’s Kingdom all things that offend God and burn the weeds at which time the weeds will wail and gnash their teeth, but the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father (v40-43). We know this parable is not about the glorious Kingdom Christ will establish when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords since that Kingdom will only have the resurrected faithful ruling and reigning with Christ as kings and priests to God (Rev. 1:5-7) ((Rev. 5:9-10). There will be no corruption in this glorious, majestic and royal Kingdom. It is also clear that the harvest cannot be at the end of Christ’s millennium reign because during that time there will be no corruption in Christ’s majestic and royal Kingdom. Added to these truths is the fact that Jesus says, he will return to gather out of his Kingdom all that offend which clearly shows that the Kingdom he is returning to must already exist.

So this leaves us with only one option and that is that the entire focus of this parable is on the present Kingdom of God on earth with its bricks and mortar buildings, its governments, institutions, denominations ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions which has contained within its buildings, governments, institutions and denominations good seed and corrupt seed. This parable clearly shows that at this present time the Kingdom of God has residing within it good servants and wicked servants, wise virgins and foolish virgins and those in wrong wedding garments and others that have come in by another door. The beginning of the New Covenant started with Christ sowing good seed into the soil of the earth. This seed has been growing for over two-thousand years, but so to have the weeds been growing amongst the good plants.

2

The interpretation of this parable

The best place to begin to understand this parable is to jump ahead to Jesus interpretation of it to his disciples when they asked him what it means. Jesus told his disciples that:

- The man who sowed the good seed is Jesus himself (v37).
- The field is the world (v38).
- The good seed is the children of the Kingdom (v38).
- The weeds are the sons of the evil one (v38).
- The enemy that sowed the weeds is the devil (v39).
- The harvest is the end of the world (v39).
- The reapers are the angels (v39).

A man who sowed good seed in his field

Jesus sowed good seed into the world and it grew into a healthy Kingdom amongst the world, but certain hypocritical, prideful and self-serving deceitful and corrupt men (the weeds) entered into this Kingdom. The good seed in the context of this parable refers to the children of God (i.e. the faithful in Christ) (v38). By extension it could embrace the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ which proclaims we are saved to eternal life by faith and God's grace apart from self-effort and adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or by keeping religious customs and traditions and any other doctrine that perverts, distorts or twists the words of the Lord Jesus Christ or entices us to trust in anything other than Jesus for salvation or doctrines that lead to ungodly behaviour. But the primary focus is upon men and woman who enter God's Kingdom on earth and who confess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This parable clearly shows that within God's present Kingdom on earth there are believers who are faithful and believers who are unfaithful.

NOTE: it is very easy for faithful brothers and sisters to become disheartened when those in the secular world accuse the global worldwide church of having corrupt seed within its Kingdom, but instead of being disheartened our response should be, "Yes isn't it incredible, this is exactly what Jesus the King of the Kingdom over two thousand years ago warned us would happen."

The man's friends were sleeping

The man's friends were sleeping (v25) may simply mean while they were resting from their labours, but it should also be taken as a warning that the faithful in the Kingdom should be constantly on guard for wolves in sheep's clothing who might enter our midst. Jesus warned:

- Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves (Matt. 7:15).

The man's enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat

Jesus in verse thirty-nine tells us the enemy is the devil. The devil in this context refers to false teachers and prophets (the ravenous and fierce wolves) who twist and distort the Gospel of the Lord Jesus of Christ who Jesus warned us would come. These are religious men who confess to believe in Christ and who are often in prominent positions amongst the global Kingdom of God, but are not in the ministry to serve God, but to serve themselves as were the religious leaders of Jesus day (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes). They are prideful, hypocritical, self-serving religious leaders who love worldly riches and the power, importance and exaltation they receive from their followers. The title devil is used of them because the word devil means false accuser or slander, it not only refers to every attitude, motive and intent within the human heart and mind that is opposed to God; opposed to God's will; opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ; opposed to the Lord's teaching and opposed to those who follow Christ, but also to every outward action that is against God, against Christ, against those who follow the Lord and against the law of love.

Planted by the devil

The expression, "planted by the devil," (v39) means they are driven by self, ego, pride, greed, selfish ambition and such like things and will not only use whatever gifts and talents they have to increase their own goals,

but also oppress those under their ministry by using them as merchandise to increase their own selfish ambition, worldly riches, power and fame. It is hypocritical believers and these religious leaders who though appearing holy are in actual fact the enemy of Christ and the corrupt seed amongst the good seed. Paul said:

- I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them, therefore be alert (Acts 20:29-31).

For further information concerning the devil, see the title:

- Devil.

In, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Let the wheat and the weeds grow together until the harvest

The word weeds, comes from the Greek word *zizanian* which means darnel. Darnel is a rye grass that flourishes in wheat fields which is difficult to recognise from wheat until its heads appear. This is because the character of darnel is such that it very closely resembles wheat in appearance except when full grown because then the grains of the darnel turn black. After harvest the wheat is fanned then put through a sieve whereby the smaller darnel seeds left after fanning pass through the sieve leaving the wheat behind. The darnel is host to a fungus, which infects the good seeds this fungus is so dangerous that it can poison an animal or a human if eaten. Is it any wonder the farmer gather it up and burns it. This parable shows the brilliance of Jesus mind, it is not by accident Jesus uses the words he does nor is it by chance he selects such perfect analogies.

NOTE: the wheat refers to those who received the Gospel of Christ into their hearts and allowed it to transform their worldviews, their thinking; their mind; their life and their speech and behavior toward God and toward His ways. These believers are also called the sons and daughters of the Kingdom and the children of God.

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Let the wheat and the weeds grow together

It is very interesting to notice when the disciples asked Jesus if they should concern themselves with separating the weeds from the wheat Jesus said, "NO! Let them grow alongside each other." Jesus is not saying if we have false prophets, false teachers and corrupt believers in our own meeting we should do nothing about it. The picture here is of a very small seed being planted into the world and over the last two-thousand years grown into a global Kingdom of real estate, bricks and mortar buildings, governments, institutions and denominations and millions worldwide confessing to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is saying that we should not spend our efforts and time on trying to destroy or bring to ruin other religious groups who confess to believe in Christ, but twist and distort the Gospel that leads to eternal life and by extension nor should we spend our time trying to change worldly governments, morals and laws of the secular world (unless they are against the law of love and the laws of justice). I believe (and it's only my personal belief) the following are the two main reasons the Lord said this:

1. The angels of the Lord are the only ones who truly know who belongs to the Kingdom of God and who doesn't. Only they can know the true motive and intent of the human heart and the mind.
2. Jesus would rather our focus is upon proclaiming the glorious Good News of the Gospel of God's love and grace rather than focus on everything that is wrong in God's Kingdom and in the world.

This I believe, is because the things the world needs to hear are:

- The majestic glory of God's grace toward sinners.
- That God's desire is to flood the human heart with His love.
- That, sinners can be united to God and saved to eternal life apart from adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days, and keeping religious customs and traditions.
- That Christianity is not about having a head full of knowledge and religious works, but walking in a loving relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The glorious hope of the coming majestic eternal and royal Kingdom.

Every brother and sister in Christ no-matter how much they may have grown spiritually in the Lord or how much Scriptural knowledge they may have acquired should always remember:

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

This means God loved us long before we loved Him and that He loved us even while we were in the miry mud of this world. This is the message the world needs to hear, not fearful messages of condemnation, doom and destruction. It is the kindness of God that draws people to repentance not fear, judgement and condemnation (Rom. 2:4). Focusing on outward eternals cannot change the human heart and mind toward God, whereas focusing upon the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ not only has the power to convert the heart and mind toward God and deliver a sinner from wrong living, but it also has the power to spiritually deliver them from the domain of darkness and transfer them into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son and from death to eternal life (Col. 1:13).

The weeds are burned in a fire

Every farmer (growing wheat) would understand the words, "The weeds are gathered and burned in the fire" (v40) because this is exactly what a farmer does when harvest time comes and when it is time to bring in the crop. The farmer would separate the weeds (the darnel) from the wheat by burning the crop then the wheat would be exposed and the weeds destroyed and then the farmer would take the wheat into his barn. Likewise, the angels of the Lord will do as the farmer does and gather out of Christ present Kingdom on earth all causes of sin and all law-breakers (v41). This clearly shows us that it is not brothers and sisters in Christ who should focus on harvesting the wicked, but rather leave that gruesome task to the angels of the Lord.

The harvest and the end of the world

The expression, "the harvest and the end of the world," (v39) does not refer to the annihilation of the world, but to the end of this age as we know it. This world's governments, banking and trading systems will all come to an end when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ as King united with his faithful resurrected brothers and sisters will restore this world to a land of beauty and righteousness, justice and joy and a place of safety and security.

Reapers and angels who judge the world

The wheat will be gathered while the weeds will be burned (a symbol of total extinction) (i.e., eternal death). John the Baptist said:

- Jesus with his winnowing fork in his hand will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the weeds he will burn with unquenchable fire (Matt. 3:11-12).

In a vision in the book of Revelation:

- An angel calls for one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand to put in his sickle, and reap for the time is fully ripe. So the one with the golden crown swung his sickle across the earth and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came with a sharp sickle because the grapes of the vine of the earth were ripe and he swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (Rev. 14:14-19).

Jesus in this parable tells us the reapers are the angels (v39) who God will send at the end of our age to judge this world. The expression, "Gather the clusters of the vine of the earth" shows that Christ focus has shifted from those within the Kingdom of God who are corrupting the church to embracing all the wicked of the earth.

Within the Bible there are two grape vines

1. The vine and grapes of God's vineyard of the Lord, (the church of Christ). When these grapes are spoken of as being ripe for harvest it refers to the wheat (faithful believers) being gathered out of the earth into Christ's eternal Kingdom by the grace and mercy of God. When this vine is spoken of as coming under judgment it is because growing on it are grapes that are not of the kind God is looking for.
2. The vine and grapes of the vineyard of the world. When these grapes are spoken of as being ripe for harvest it refers to the weeds (the enemies of God and wickedness) reaching its full measure and being ripe for judgment and ruin.

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Jesus is now referring to the vineyard that has spread over the whole earth that it has become fuel fit for burning (judgment). The words, "The cluster of it" denotes the great multitude of the wicked about to be cut down, gathered in, and destroyed, because the grapes on the vine are fully ripe meaning wickedness has reached its full measure and the cup of iniquity is overflowing. Joel wrote:

- Put in the sickle for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow for their evil is great (Joel 3:13).

The book of Revelations tells us:

- From the Lord's mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty (Rev. 19:15).

The grapes on the vine of the earth are fully ripe means the sins of the nations are filled up and overflowing they have become ripe for judgment. A day is coming toward us when the age of God's grace and God's long suffering will end and the corrupt vine of the earth will be spared no longer.

The wine press of God

the wine-press is a perfect picture of God's wrath upon the wicked since it is where vast numbers of grapes are crushed by being trodden under foot and from the bleeding mass runs red juice that flows out like blood. The title, "The great wine-press of God's wrath" perfectly depicts the day the wicked are given over to judgment and the final destruction of the

wicked being destroyed as the grapes of the vine of the whole earth (referring to the world) have fully ripened and are ready to be crushed under the wrath of God. Consider the following Scriptures:

- From the Lord's mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty (Rev. 19:15).
- Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel (Isaiah 63:2-3).
- Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great (Joel 3:13).

The wine-press of God refers to the fury and wrath of God and the calamity and destruction that will come upon this planet we live on.

A furnace of fire

Jesus tells the disciples, "The weeds will be thrown into a fiery furnace (v42) this is exactly what a natural farmer does with the weeds that grow amongst his crops. Likewise, God will do the same as the farmer and gather the weeds out of this world and cast them into a furnace of fire. This does not mean that they will be cast into a place full of fiery flames in some form of conscious eternal spirit were their bodies will continually burn and evil entities called demons will brutally and cruelly torture them for all eternity (as many believe). This sadistic teaching has arisen from the mind of man for various reason one being to scare people into the church and another from a lack of understanding God's heart and the language of the Bible. Even worse than this it presents a picture of the immortal, invisible Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life as being the most sadistic God of all gods people believe in. Fire is a symbol of total destruction and total extinction and the words; "Furnace of fire" is a symbol of the destruction of the wicked at the end of this age as we know it and a symbol of eternal death (i.e. total and utter extinction). For further information see the title:

- Hell in, death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: some may think the language of God's wrath and fury sound extremely harsh, but consider the following:

- Mega multitudes of young girls are being kidnapped every day and cruelly sold as sex slaves to satisfy the lusts of brutal men so that evil men whose god is money can indulge themselves in the luxuries of this world.
- Hundreds of thousands of innocent men, woman and children are brutally lamed and killed by war and mans greed for power, control and worldly riches.
- Multi-millions of young teenagers' lives are destroyed while corrupt men make billions of dollars trading and manufacturing drugs simply so they can indulge themselves in an excess of luxury.
- Scores of murders, rapes and child-abuse happen every day, innocent wives are cruelly beaten by weak and brutal husbands and the list of horror goes on.

Is it any wonder a day is coming when God's fury and wrath will no longer be contained, but unleashed upon everything that is corrupt in this world and brought harm and hurt to the innocent?

The wonder and glory of God's longsuffering

The patience of God towards sinners is the greatest miracle in the world; but, though lasting, it will not be everlasting; and the growing ripeness in sin is a sure proof of judgment at hand.

Angels put in their sickles

The angels putting in their sickles and reaping out of the earth the weeds will take place at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ when those who have died in faith and those who are alive when Christ returns are gathered to him and raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. Jesus said, "When the angels have finished reaping the earth then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father" (Matt. 13:43).

Weeping and gnashing of teeth

Jesus said, "In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (v42) throughout the New Testament various Scriptures show that some who thought they would be servants accepted into the God's eternal Kingdom will be cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Outer darkness in this context carries the idea of the extreme opposite to light, it implies that people instead of being in the light will be in darkness and instead of being united with the Lord will be rejected. To help understand the words "Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth" it needs to be understood that Christ will return to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).
- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).
- Those who overcame sing the song of Moses, the servant of God (referring to the Jews), and the song of the Lamb (referring to the Gentiles), saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, *O King of the nations!* Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. *All nations* will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed (Rev. 15:3-4).

These are only a few of the many Scriptures that give us some insight into the majestic royal glory that will come upon God's Holy City Jerusalem when Christ returns in glory. I suspect outer darkness refers to the ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing who thought they would be in the KINGDOM because of the great religious works they did, but instead find themselves dwelling amongst the nations outside the glorified city of Jerusalem during the millennial age of Christ's glorious rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. Outer darkness is certainly an apt description of living outside of the New and Holy City of Jerusalem when its glorious light is contrasted to the darkness of the nations. It is easy to understand the enormous weeping and gnashing of teeth (grief and sorrow) when the following words of Jesus are considered. There will be certain servants of the Kingdom who will stand before the Lord when he returns and say: -

- Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and did many mighty works in your name? (Matt. 7:22).

Obviously, these people had done many great religious things in Jesus name and believed they would be accepted into the glorious city of New Jerusalem to be established on earth with the Lord Jesus Christ ruling as its King, but Jesus reply to them is to say: -

- I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness (Matt. 7:23).

Is it any wonder that at this judgement there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

He who hath ears to hear, let him hear

The easiest way to explain what the expression "he who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (v43) means is to refer to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes). These men not only literally saw Jesus with their own eyes and heard him speak, but also witnessed many of the amazing wonders and miracles he did and yet they still did not believe. Why you might wonder? Simply because they were full of pride, and craved after worldly riches, power, exaltation, importance and fame, they were not in the ministry to serve God, but to serve their own greed and selfish ambition clearly they had a grossly wrong heart attitude and therefore were spiritually blind to the majestic royal glory of the man who stood in front of them and who they plotted to murder. This principal of course does not only apply to religious leaders, but to anyone with a wrong heart attitude before God and a heart full of pride.

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