"THE WHEAT AND THE TARES"



Matthew 13:24-30, 34-43
3/4/2018

INTRODUCTION:

***If you have *"ears to hear,"* hear an important lesson about the differences between the "wheat" and the "tares."**

I. THE TWO <u>PLANTINGS</u> (v. 24-26, 37-39a)
(The <u>sowing</u> of "wheat" by Jesus and "tares" by Satan is happening today)

II. THE TWO <u>CROPS</u> (v. 27-30a)
(The <u>co-existence</u> of the "wheat with "tares" will continue during this Age)

III. THE TWO <u>HARVESTS</u> (v. 30, 39b-43)
(The <u>severance</u> of the "wheat" from the "tares" will occur at the completion of this Age) (compare: Rev. 14:14-20)

CONCLUSION: Which "seed" are you?

"THE WHEAT AND THE TARES"



Matthew 13:24-30, 34-43
3/4/2018

INTRODUCTION:

***If you have *"ears to hear,"* hear an important lesson about the differences between the "wheat" and the "tares."**

I. THE TWO <u>PLANTINGS</u> (v. 24-26, 37-39a)
(The _____ of "wheat" by Jesus and "tares" by Satan is happening today)

II. THE TWO <u>CROPS</u> (v. 27-30a)
(The _____ of the "wheat with "tares" will continue during this Age)

III. THE TWO <u>HARVESTS</u> (v. 30, 39b-43)
(The _____ of the "wheat" from the "tares" will occur at the completion of this Age) (compare: Rev. 14:14-20)

CONCLUSION: Which "seed" are you?

"THE WHEAT AND THE TARES"

Matthew 13:24-30, 34-43
3/4/2018

INTRODUCTION:

READ vv. 24-30, 34-36

Although the disciples did not fully understand that parable, the fact that they called it the "Parable of the tares" shows they realized the major emphasis was on the tares rather than the wheat." (MacArthur, p. 376)

The Interpretation:

"Man" (v. 24) = the Son of man (Jesus Christ) (v. 37)

"His field" (v. 24) = the world (*kosmos*) (v. 38)

"Good seed" (v. 24) = the children of the kingdom (believers) (v. 38)

"Tares" (v. 25) = children of the wicked one (v. 38)

"His enemy" (v. 25) = the devil (v. 39)

"The harvest" (v. 30) = the end of the world (*aionos*) (the completion of this age) (v. 39)

"The reapers" (v. 30) = angels (v. 39)

***If you have *"ears to hear,"* hear an important lesson about the differences between the "wheat" and the "tares."**

I. THE TWO PLANTINGS (v. 24-26, 37-39a)

(The sowing of "wheat" by Jesus and "tares" by Satan is happening today)

V. 24

"The kingdom of Heaven" - This kingdom is called *"of Heaven"* because it wrought (brought about) by the God of Heaven.

(The phrases *"kingdom of heaven"* and *"kingdom of God"* are used synonymously -- compare Mt. 13:11 with Luke 8:10)

In the previous parable, the *"seed"* represented Word of God. Here the *"good seed"* represents the children of God. People who no doubt accepted the seed of God's Word into their hearts and became *"wheat."*

The *"good seed"* (children of God) are produced by Jesus Christ. He gives the increase. He is sovereign in the area of salvation.

Since the *"field"* is the "*world"* and it is called *"His field"* this means that the world (the globe) belongs to Jesus Christ. It is His world.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1; cp. Exod. 9:29; I Cor. 10:26, 28)

V. 25

"We must stay awake to make sure that Satan's ministers do not get into the true fellowship and do damage (II Pet. 2; I Jn. 4:1-6). It is when God's people go to sleep that Satan works" (Wiersbe, p. 46).

Since Satan will be bound for 1,000 years during the Millennium Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3), this parable must refer to the time period prior to that kingdom (our present age).

"Tares" - rye grass, weeds, or darnel, which often grows up with the wheat. "One side effect of the darnel seed is that it is subject to a parasite fungus, which infects seed and is poisonous to both men and beasts" (Unger's Bible Dictionary, p. 1144-45, cited by Walvoord, p. 100).

V. 26

The most common type of tare in the Holy Land is the bearded darnel (Lolium Temulentum) which is "a poisonous grass, almost indistinguishable from the wheat while the two are growing into blade. But when they come into ear, they can be separated without difficulty" (Unger, p. 1145).

"Then appeared" - prior to the tares being clearly manifested, they looked just like wheat.

It was called "bastard wheat," because it was <u>not</u> legitimate real wheat.
I'm sure that most "tares" don't realize (think) that they are tares. Because of:

1) Their <u>proximity</u> (closeness) to the wheat (they worship together, go to church together, etc.)

2) Their <u>similarity</u> with the wheat (they drink the same water, share the same soil and sunlight, and for a while even look alike)

Just as it is often hard to tell the difference between a blade of wheat from a tare (in its early stages) because they look so much alike, so we must not forget that Satan's servants (witnesses) look great on the outside (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Ecumenical unity and evangelism plans right into the hands of Satan, who is glad to have Christians embrace his "tares" as "Brethren."

"Fruit" - "Two believers can be identified by their spiritual and practical fruit (grain) and unbelievers by their lack of it" (MacArthur, p. 378).

The wheat and tares were practically indistinguishable until the "fruit" of the wheat appeared and the manifestation of the tares appeared. This distinction will be most evident in the Last Days, when people all over this earth will be forced (by Antichrist) to show whose side they are on.

Unregenerate men can imitate true believers for only so long; eventually their true nature begins to show.

II. THE TWO CROPS (v. 27-30a)
(The co-existence of the "wheat with "tares" will continue during this Age)

V. 28
"An enemy hath done this"

"Because of this resemblance, sowing tares. . . among the wheat was sometimes done in ancient times out of spite or revenge by an enemy who wanted to destroy or at least greatly reduce the value of someone's crop. It was a common enough crime for the Romans to have had a specific law against it" (MacArthur, p. 367).

Satan's primary weapons used to fight against God's work is to seek to corrupt God's work from the inside, by planting "tares" (false believers) in the midst of the "wheat" (true Christians). Satan then uses these pawns to *"sow discord among the brethren"* (Prov. 6:19). To divide, spread rumors (gossip), teach false doctrine, draw away disciples after themselves (cause splits, schisms), etc.

"The servants" - perhaps the same beings as the *"reapers"* (v. 30), who are called *"angels"* (v. 39).

The angels no doubt abhor the infiltration of the unrighteous among the righteous, the unequal yokings that take place, the tolerance of unregenerate people to join believing congregations, colleges, and seminaries.

V. 28-29

Men question why there is evil in the world and God doesn't wipe the evil people out. The reason is, that if He were to wipe out the wicked, His judgments would also affect the righteous.

The reason why God doesn't allow angels to separate the tares from the wheat is because in so doing, their supernatural power, plagues, and judgments would affect the wheat as well.

V. 30 ***"Let both grow together" -*** Allow them to co-exist.

It is not God's will that believers move to a monastery and live in isolation from unbelievers. Jesus said: *"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil [one]"* (Jn. 17:15).

We are *"in the world*" but not *"of the world"* (v. 16).

Paul wrote: *"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world."* (I Cor. 5:9-10)

III. THE TWO HARVESTS (v. 30, 39b-43)

(The severance of the "wheat" from the "tares" will occur at the completion of this Age) (compare: Rev. 14:14-20)

V. 30

"The harvest" - this harvest is singular because the harvest of the living wicked and living righteous will occur at the same time (season).

This harvest will also occur at a specific time. *"Time" =* season or moment of time. Known only by the Lord.

"Gather" - Note: the world "gather" is used frequently of the gathering for Armageddon (Rev. 14:19; 16:14, 16; 19:19)

"Father ye together first" - the "gathering" for Armageddon will occur before the Rapture, although the Battle of Armageddon does not occur until after the Rapture.

First the wedding of the Church (Rev. 19:7-10), then the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21).

This *"harvest"* is described in more detail in Rev. 14:14-20 -

1. The removal of the righteous at the Rapture (v. 14-16)
2. The gathering of the wicked for Armageddon (v. 17-20)

"In bundles" - [plural] -- many.

Bundles will be gathered, but the biggest bundle will gather in the Valley of Megiddo (Rev. 9:16; 16:14, 16). This big bundle will be destroyed by Christ at His second coming (after the Rapture) but the rest will not be destroyed until after His descent during the sheep and goat judgment (Mt. 25:31-46).

"Gather the wheat into my barn" - a reference to the Rapture, when the saints will be brought to Jesus to obtain the promised kingdom.

"The harvest is the end of the world" - lit. the end (consummation) of the age (*aionos* not *kosmos*). The end of this time period; the end of the church age.

Note: Christ's reference to the "Last Day" (Jn. 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 7:37; 11:24; 12:48) also does not mean the last day of the globe as some teach, but the last day of this present age.

V. 40

"***End of this world" =*** end of this age.

This judgment is described throughout the New Testament -

Mt. 13:47-50 - Separation of the good fish from the bad

II Thess. 1:7-10 - SEE

Rev. 19:15 - *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

This parable is evidently not limited to the exact same timing as the separation of thesheepfromthegoats (Mt.25:31-46). Proof: Intheparableofthe"wheatandtares" it is *"angels"* that do the separation (v. 30, 29, 41), whereas in the "sheep and goats" parable, it is specifically Jesus Christ (*"the King"* alone) who separates them (Mt. 25:32-33).

The wheat and tares describes a "harvest" to occur for both immediately after the Rapture, whereas the sheep and goats describe a severance to occur when Christ is sitting on His throne prior to the establishment of His kingdom.

V. 41

"All things that offend" - All people that offend.

"Offend" - those who cause others to sin

"Iniquity" - those who commit acts and practices contrary to God's law.

V. 42

"A furnace of fire" - Hell (Lk. 16:23ff)

The weeping and gnashing of teeth is a reaction to the judgment to come mentioned frequently in Matthew (8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30).

"Each time it is used, it refers to judgment on sinners before the Millennium is established.

"Weeping" suggests sorrow and grief (emotional agony of the lost in hell)

And *"grinding of teeth"* speaks of pain (physical agony in hell)
(Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 50).

V. 43

"Shine" - We will radiate the imparted glory of Christ.

"The righteous will shine" because rather than causing others to sin while on earth, they turned sinners to righteousness (Dan. 12:3 - *"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."*)

CONCLUSION: Which "seed" are you?

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear" - These words show the seriousness of what Jesus has said. You must not be so concerned about everything else that you don't give thought as to whether you are a "wheat" stalk or a "tare."
Are you a child of God or Satan? (cp. Jn. 8:44

Lest you should be exalted in pride because you are wheat, or others are tares, you must never forget that you were once a "tare" seed before the Lord supernaturally transformed you into a wheat seed!