

MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN # 2

"THE WHEAT AND THE TARES"

- I. AN ANALYSIS OF THE PARABLE Matt.13:24-30;36-43).
 - A. The sower in this second parable is the Lord Jesus(13:37).
 - B. The field again is the world as in the first parable (13:37).
 - C. The good seed here is different however from that of the sower. In the parable of the sower it was the Word of God, but in this parable the good seed are the children of the Kingdom (38). These are the ones which the Word has produced and are now sown in the world as a testimony and witness. Note I Peter I:23).
 - D. The tares of this parable are the children of the wicked one(38). These are not just unbelievers but those who belong to the devil. An example of these are the religious Pharisees of John 8:38-44 who, despite their religion and morals, had rejected the Lord.
 - E. The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil (39).
 - F. The harvest is the end of the age when Christ comes after the tribulation and the reapers are the angels (39). Note Matt 24:31; 25:31,34.

II. WHAT WE CAN ANTICIPATE DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE

- A. We can expect first of all a counterfeit sowing by the devil in this age of those who profess to be children of the Kingdom (25). These will appear right alongside those whom the Word of God has produced.
- B. We can expect the devil's powers of deception to be so great that it will be difficult to recognize in many cases the children of God from the children of the devil. They will be like tares among the wheat. The tares are darnel or rye grass which grows in wheat fields and the difference is recognized only

near harvest time when the grain heads. Not only will the counterfeiters profess to be children of the Kingdom, but they themselves will be deceived and think that they are (Matt. 7:21,22,23).

- C. We can anticipate this age to be characterized by two kinds of seeds being sown which are the true and the false professors which are sown in the field which is the world. So, within Christendom as a whole, there will be a side-by-side development of that which is good with that which is evil (26). This will be the devil's method in this age to deceive and to hinder the seed-sowing program by sowing counterfeiters who will in turn deceive others and lead them astray. Note II Tim. 3:1-5,13; Jude 4.

- D. Because we notice no opposition to the sowing and growth of the tares, we can expect the children of the wicked one to be numerous in this age and therefore those whom they deceive to be many also.

- E. Finally we can expect the true children of the Kingdom to be raptured when the church is taken out of this world. But the seed-sowing program will continue through the tribulation period as the gospel of the Kingdom is preached and there will be wheat sown. Then at the Second Coming Christ will separate the wheat from the tares. The tares will be burned (13:30,40-42) but the wheat will be gathered into His barn which is the Millennial Kingdom which will be established (13:30,43).

III. SOME APPLICATIONS WE SHOULD MAKE FROM THIS PARABLE

- A. We should recognize Satan's method of sowing counterfeiters is as close to the real thing as he can produce. Just like Jannes and Jambres who withstood Moses and Aaron with their miracles in Egypt. And just like Anti-Christ who will present himself as the Lord, this deception will be great. To keep from being deceived we must hold tenaciously to the Word of God.

- B. We ought to see an application for us in the time in which the tares were sown-" while men slept" (25). This is no doubt a picture of the Church today. It is asleep and the devil is sowing tares. We ought to wake up and be the kind of testimony

and witness God intends for us to be (I Thess. 5:5,6).

- C. We should not confuse the field here which is the world of professing Christendom with the local church as far as letting the tares alone. Within the local Church carnal believers are to be disciplined (Rom. 16:17,18; I Cor. 5:1-13; 6:2-5; II Cor. 2:6; Titus 3:8-11), and God holds us accountable if we fail to do so (Rev. 2:8,14,15,20).
- D. Finally we notice that the servants recognized the tares (13:27). Both Paul and Peter recognized them in their day (Gal. 1:7,8; II Cor 11:13,14,15, II Peter 2:1). So should we on the basis of their departure from the Word of God. It is not how they preach and present themselves, but what they preach. They may even speak much of the truth but it will be mingled and mixed with error as with the Judaizers in Paul's day. So we need to be discerning in our day.