

The Kingdom of God

MATTHEW 13 – THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND
TARES

The Kingdom of Heaven

MATTHEW 13:24

Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God

- Only Matthew uses *kingdom of heaven* (32 times), but also uses *kingdom of God* – Mt. 12:28
- Why kingdom of *heaven*?
 - Literally “kingdom of the heavens” and likely connected to Dan. 2:44
 - Fits Matthew’s Jewish audience that hesitated to use God’s name.
 - Would help show Christ’s kingdom is spiritual, not earthly – Jn. 18:36
- Kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are synonymous – Mt. 13:31; Mk. 4:30-31

The Parable and its Explanation

MATTHEW 13:24-30

The Parable

- The parable was set before them like food to feast upon – 13:24
- The kingdom of heaven is like seed being sown in a field – 13:24
- Though the owner sowed good seed in **his field**, an enemy secretly sowed bad seed **in the same field** – 13:24-26
- When the tares appeared, the owner concluded an enemy had done this – 13:27-30
 - The tares would remain until harvest time to avoid uprooting the owner's wheat
 - At harvest the tares are pulled up and burned, followed by the harvest and storing of the wheat.

The Explanation

- Christ, the “son of man,” is the sower of the good seed – Mt. 13:37
 - Connects Jesus to the “son of man” who received a heavenly kingdom – Dan. 7:13-14
 - Doesn’t tell us how people become good or bad seed – Mt. 4:23; Lk. 8:15; 1 Jn. 3:7-8
- Christ’s field is the *world* populated by good and bad seed/plants – Mt. 13:38
 - In the end, the tares are “gathered out of His kingdom,” showing Jesus rules over even those of the devil – 13:41
 - Yet, many references present the kingdom and the church to be synonymous.

The Explanation

- At the end of time the good and bad seed are harvested from the kingdom – 13:39-43
 - The devil is responsible for the bad seed, showing he is still at work attacking Christ's kingdom – 13:39
 - The good and bad seed are mingled together during the time of Christ's kingdom and aren't separated until the end – 13:39-42
 - Only after the harvest and in the **Father's** kingdom with the righteous truly shine – 13:43; 1 Cor. 15:24

Application

ISAIAH 11:10-16

Application

- Christ's kingdom is spiritual, existing through the seed sown in the hearts of obedient believers – Lk. 17:20-21;
- Our glory may be hidden now in a world populated by bad seed, but that will change – Rom. 8:16-18
- Christ's rule is one of mercy, grace, and forbearance, allowing the wicked to remain with the righteous.
 - God forbears because He wants all to be saved – 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9
 - With God's patience comes a warning for the good seed to persevere – 2 Pet. 2:20-21; 3:14-18

Christ's Kingdom VS Premillennialism's Kingdom

Christ

- Populated by Christ after its establishment by the seed of the kingdom being preached and believed in the world – Isa. 2:1-3
- Continually faces attacks from Satan sowing seeds of rebellion
- The evil seed of Satan lives among the good seed in Christ's kingdom

Premillennialism

- Jesus returns with His saints to establish His kingdom by crushing Satan and his army at the bloody battle of Armageddon.
- At Christ's victory Satan is bound and Christ rules on earth in complete peace and harmony, with all the world knowing God (i.e., wolf/lamb together, etc. – Isa. 11:6-9 taken literally)
- Wicked are vanquished