

II] THE COUNSEL FOR THE PRESENT AGE-

THE AGE FROM THE REJECTION OF THE MESSIAH BY ISRAEL -- UNTIL HIS RECEPTION AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING BY ISRAEL IS OUTLINED IN TWO PORTIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: MATTHEW CHAPTER 13 AND REVELATION CHAPTERS 2-3.

MATTHEW 18 THE VIEWPOINT IS OF GOD'S KINGDOM PROGRAM -- AND REVELATION 2-3 IS OF THE CHURCH PROGRAM. WE WILL TRACE THE FLOW OF THIS PRESENT AGE FROM THESE TWO PASSAGES,

MATTHEW 13

[MATTHEW 13:11] REVEALS THAT THE LORD IS SPEAKING IN ORDER THAT HE MAY GIVE THE COURSE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLES IN THIS CHAPTER 13 HAVE THREE DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

THE FIRST IS A -- NON-DISPENSATIONAL APPROACH. BECAUSE THIS APPROACH ~~SIMPLY~~ EXCLUDES ANY PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE FROM THIS PASSAGE AND IS STUDIED ONLY FOR ITS --

SPIRITUAL OR MORAL TEACHINGS AS IT
AFFECTS BELIEVERS TODAY.

THEY EMPHASIZE THE UNITY OF GOD'S
PURPOSE FROM THE FALL OF MAN UNTIL
THE ETERNAL STATE. THIS APPROACH
FAILS TO MAKE ANY DISTINCTION
BETWEEN GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL
AND THAT FOR THE CHURCH -- THEY SEE
ONLY CHURCH TRUTH IN THIS CHAPTER.

THE SECOND IS A - ULTRA - DISPENSATIONAL
APPROACH. ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE
THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
THE CHURCH -- THEY SAY THIS CHAPTER IS
IS TOTALLY LIMITED TO GOD'S PROGRAM
FOR ISRAEL -- AND -- REVELATION CONCERNING
ISRAEL - IN THE TRIBULATION PERIOD.
WHEN GOD IS PREPARING THEM FOR THE
COMING OF CHRIST.

THE THIRD IS THAT THIS CHAPTER GIVES
A PICTURE OF CONDITIONS ON THE EARTH
IS RESPECT TO -- THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE KINGDOM PROGRAM - DURING THE TIME
OF CHRIST'S ABSENCE FROM THE EARTH.

THAT THESE PARABLES DESCRIBE
THE EVENTS OF THE ENTIRE (COMPLETED)
PRESENT AGE [INTER-ADVENT] PERIOD.

WE SHALL APPROACH THIS
PASSAGE -- USING THE THIRD --

④ THE USE OF THE PARABOLIC METHOD

[MAT. 13:10] THE DISCIPLES ASK JESUS
WHY SPEAKEST ~~UNTO~~ ^{THEM} IN
PARABLES?

A VARIATION IN EMPHASIS OF THIS
QUESTION WILL INDICATE SEVERAL CAUSES
FOR THIS QUESTION.

IF "THEM" IS EMPHASISED RAISES
THE THOUGHT AS TO WHY THE LORD WOULD
SPEAK TO THE MULTITUDE — [AS HE IS IN
[MAT 13:1-3] — WHEN — IN THE PREVIOUS
CHAPTER] — AFTER THE MANIFEST
REJECTION OF THE TESTIMONY OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT TO THE PERSON OF CHRIST
BY THE NATION ISRAEL — HE CHARACTERIZED
"THEM" AS AN EVIL AND ADULTEROUS
GENERATION (v39) — WHY DO YOU
CONTINUE TO TEACH A NATION THAT
HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THEIR
DECISION — THAT YOU ARE THE SON OF
SATAN.

THE NATURE OF THE LORD'S REPLY
IN THE VERSES THAT FOLLOW — WOULD
INDICATE THAT — NOT "THEM" — BUT
"IN PARABLES" IS THE EMPHASIS.

THERE WAS NOTHING NEW — IN

THE USE OF PARABLES THEMSELVES---

- FOR THE LORD HAD USED PARABLES WITH FREQUENCY BEFORE - TO -- INSTRUCT AND TO ILLUSTRATE THE TRUTHS HE DESIRED TO CONVEY.

THUS

THE DISCIPLES MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED A NEW EMPHASIS IN OUR LORD'S -- TEACHING METHOD.

IN REPLY

TO THE DISCIPLES' QUESTION -- THE LORD GIVES THREE PURPOSES FOR THE USE OF THIS PARABOLIC METHOD OF INSTRUCTION-

- ① IT WAS A MEANS OF SUBSTANTIATING HIS CLAIM TO BEING THE MESSIAH (13:34-35); IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER SIGNS TO PROVE HIS CLAIM -- THERE WAS THE SIGN IN RELATION TO ~~DEAD~~ ISAIAH'S PROPHECY.
- ② IT WAS A METHOD OF IMPARTING TRUTH TO THE BELIEVING HEARER (VS 11).
- ③ IT WAS A METHOD OF HIDING TRUTH FROM THE UNBELIEVING HEARER (VS 13-15).

THE REASON WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO HIDE TRUTH - WILL BE SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING THINGS TO CONSIDER --

⑧ THE SETTING OF THE CHAPTER IN THE GOSPEL -

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PRESENTS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS JEHOVAH'S KING AND ISRAEL'S MESSIAH --- MATTHEW PRESENTS THE MESSIAH TO ISRAEL.

- MATTHEW IS "ALLIED" WITH THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES. THE SUBJECTS OF HEBREW SCRIPTURE - THE MESSIAH, ISRAEL, THE LAW - THE KINGDOM, THE PROPHECY, JEWISH IDEAS AND TERMINALITY ARE CHARACTERIZED.

THIS FACT IS BROUGHT FORTH BY THE NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO THE SON OF DAVID - [1:1, 20 -- 9:27 -- 12:23 -- 15:22, 20:30-31 -- 21:9 -- ~~22:42-45~~] TO THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY -- (1:22 -- 2:5, 15, 17, 23 -- ETC.) TO JEWISH CUSTOMS -- (5:1-2 -- 27:62) TO THE MOSAIC LAW -- (5:17-19 -- 21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43 -- 7:12, -- CH 6 & 12 -- 50 ON -- TO THE SABBATH -- (CH 12, 24, 28) AND TO THE HOLY CITY AND THE HOLY PLACE (CH 4, 24, 27).

CHRIST IS RELATED TO PROPHECY THROUGH-OUT THE GOSPEL. THIS HAS TWO - IMPORTANT BEARING - ON THE MEANING OF THE TERM -- --

"KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!"

THIS 13 CHAPTER HOLDS A ... UNIQUE-
PLACE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
THEME OF THE GOSPEL, THROUGHOUT - THE
BOOK - CHRIST IS SEEN IN AS "MESSIAH":
- HE IS SHOWN AS KING - WITH LEGAL
RIGHT TO THE THRONE. HE IS SHOWN AS
THE SON-OF DAVID.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD BORNE HIS
WITNESSES TO THE PERSON OF CHRIST -
THROUGH CHRIST WORDS AND WORKS.

IN CH 12, THE PHARISEES WHO
EXAMINED THE EVIDENCE - DECIDED -
AND DECLARED - CHRIST'S CREDENTIALS -
ARE - "THE CREDENTIALS OF HELL". (12:4)

IN [CH 12:46-50] CHRIST INDICATES THAT
HE IS - SETTING ASIDE ALL NATURAL
RELATIONSHIPS - SUCH AS ISRAEL HELD
TO HIM AND THE COVENANT PROMISES - BY
HIS PHYSICAL BIRTH. - HE NOW WILL
ESTABLISH - A NEW RELATIONSHIP BASED
ON FAITH.

NOW ISRAEL HAS REJECTED THE
OFFERED KINGDOM - - WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO GOD'S KINGDOM PROGRAM,
SINCE THIS KINGDOM WAS THE
SUBJECT - OF AN IRREVOCABLE -

ABANDONED

COVENANT - IT COULD NOT BE ABANDONED
 — IT WAS - IS UNTHINKABLE —

THIS CH 13 GIVES THE EVENTS IN
 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM —
 — FROM THE TIME OF ITS REJECTION
 UNTIL — IT IS RECEIVED — WHEN
 THE NATION — WELCOMES THE KING
 AT HIS SECOND COMING — (ADVENT)

THE USE OF THE TERM —
 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

IN THE SCRIPTURES THE TERM —
 KINGDOM — IS USED IN SEVEN —
 — DIFFERENT WAYS —

- ① THE GENTILE KINGDOMS — ②
 THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND
 JUDAH ③ THE KINGDOM OF SATAN
- ④ GOD'S UNIVERSAL KINGDOM — ~~REIGN~~
 ⑤ A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM — ⑥ THE
 MILLENNIAL DAVIDIC KINGDOM — AND
- ⑦ THE MYSTERY FORM — OF THE KINGDOM —

THE LAST 3 OF THE KINGDOMS ARE
 CONCERNING — "ESCHATOLOGY" — LAST
 KINGDOMS —

— LET US LOOK AT THEM —

THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM

THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM IS RELATED TO OR WITH GOD'S UNIVERSAL KINGDOM. THIS KINGDOM MADE UP OF ALL THE AGES - COMPOSED OF THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED A NEW BIRTH BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (JOHN 3) (MAT 6:33 - 19:16, 23, 24) (ACT 8:12) - WITH MANY OTHERS.

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

THE MILLENNIAL IS DECLARED TO BE A LITERAL EARTHLY KINGDOM OVER WHICH CHRIST RULES FROM DAVID'S THRONE - WHICH WILL FULFILL THE DAVIDIC COVENANT COVENANT - [2 SAMUEL 7:8-17] - [ISAIAH 9:6-7] WITH OTHERS.

THIS KINGDOM WAS PROCLAIMED AS BEING "AT HAND" - AT CHRIST'S FIRST ADVENT - [MATTHEW 3:2] "REPENT YE - FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND" - BUT WAS REJECTED BY ISRAEL - AND THEREFORE POSTPONED [MATTHEW 23:37-39]

IT WILL BE RECEIVED BY ISRAEL IN THE TRIBULATION - AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. [REV 19:11-16 - 20:1-6]

-THE MYSTERY FORM OF THE KINGDOM-

THE MYSTERY FORM OF THE KINGDOM BRINGS US A CONCEPT -- ENTIRELY DISTINCT FROM THE OTHER TWO.

THAT GOD IS GOING TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM ON THE EARTH WAS, IS NO MYSTERY.

SINCE THE FIRST SIN IN HEAVEN WHEN GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY WAS CHALLENGED -- IT WAS HIS PURPOSE TO MANIFEST HIS SOVEREIGNTY -- BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A KINGDOM -- OVER WHICH HE RULED.

WHEN ADAM WAS CREATED -- GOD GAVE DOMINION TO HIM [GEN 1:26] HE WAS TO MANIFEST THE -- SOVEREIGNTY THAT BELONGED TO GOD -- WHICH WAS ADAM'S BY DIVINE APPOINTMENT. -- BUT ADAM SINNED AND GOD'S AUTHORITY WAS NOT MANIFEST.

THEN CAME THE REIGN OF CONSCIENCE -- WHICH WAS INTENDED TO -- BEAR EVIDENCE TO THE INDIVIDUAL -- AS TO HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE -- SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD --

BUT MANKIND FAILED--THE TEST.

THEN

HUMAN GOVERNMENT WAS ORDAINED
-- THAT MAN MIGHT RECOGNIZE --
-- THAT GOVERNMENT AS A MANIFESTATION
OF -- GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY -- BUT MAN
REBELLED AGAINST THAT.

THEN

GOD APPOINT JUDGES - SO THAT THESE
JUDGES MIGHT MANIFEST GOD'S --
AUTHORITY -- BUT MAN REJECTED
-- GOD INSTITUTED A THEOCRACY --
IN WHICH GOD WAS RECOGNIZED AS
SOVEREIGN -- BUT -- THE NATION
CHOSSEN (ISRAEL) TO MANIFEST THIS
DISPLAY OF SOVEREIGNTY. "REBELLED"
[1 SAMUEL 8:7]

"AND THE LORD SAID:
TO SAMUEL - HEARKEN TO THE VOICE
OF THE PEOPLE IN ALL ~~THAT~~ THEY
SAY TO YOU -- FOR THEY HAVE NOT
REJECTED YOU -- BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED
ME -- THAT I SHOULD NOT BE KING --
OVER THEM!"

SO THEN

GOD REVEALED HIS PURPOSE --
TO MANIFEST HIS SOVEREIGNTY --
-- THROUGH DAVID'S SEED -- WHO
WOULD REIGN -- [2 SAMUEL 7:16]

"YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR KINGDOM
SHALL BE MADE SURE FOR EVER
BEFORE YOU - YOUR THRONE SHALL
BE ESTABLISHED - FOR EVER"

- SO CHRIST IS BORN -
AND EVEN HE - AS THE RE-ESTABLISH
OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY - WAS REJECTED.

THE MYSTERY FORM OF THE
KINGDOM - AS WE SEE - HAS REFERENCE
TO THE AGE BETWEEN THE -
- TWO ADVENTS OF GOD -

THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN - DESCRIBE - THE
CONDITIONS - THAT PREVAIL ON
THE EARTH - IN THAT INTERIM
- WHILE THE KING - [JESUS CHRIST]
IS ABSENT - AT THE FATHER'S
RIGHT HAND.

THESE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN - [MATTHEW 13:17] - THUS
RELATE "THIS PRESENT AGE" -

TO
THE ETERNAL PURPOSES OF GOD
IN REGARD
TO HIS KINGDOM