

CONCERNING THIS MYSTERY FORM OF THE KINGDOM - WE SEE IN THE FIRST PLACE:

IT CAN NOT BE COMPARABLE WITH THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM - WHY - BECAUSE THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM WAS NO MYSTERY - BUT WAS CLEARLY PREDICTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - THE THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST.

IN THE SECOND PLACE:

IT CANNOT REFER TO THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM FOR THE SPIRITUAL KINGDOM IS MADE UP OF SAVED INDIVIDUALS - WHO ENTER IT BY THE NEW BIRTH.

THIS MYSTERY KINGDOM IS COMPOSED OF SAVED AND UNSAVED Alike - [WHEAT AND TARES - GOOD AND BAD FISH]

IN THE THIRD PLACE:

IT CANNOT REFER TO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM - FOR THESE MYSTERIES ARE LIMITED IN TIME TO THE [INTER ADVENT] PERIOD. GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM CANNOT BE LIMITED.

IN THE FORTH PLACE:

THIS MYSTERY FORM OF THE KINGDOM ~~WAS~~ HAS REFERENCE TO THINGS THAT WERE UNREVEALED BEFORE CHRIST.

IT IS DEFINITELY LIMITED - AS TO TIME - AND REPRESENTS THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF GOD IN THE PRESENT AGE - AND THE PEOPLE.

IN REGARD TO THE TERMS: KINGDOM OF GOD - AND - KINGDOM OF HEAVENS - THEY ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS - THE SAME - BUT THEY USED "INTERCHANGEABLY" - IN THE (CH 13) - IF THERE IS ANY DISTINCTION - IT WILL BE HOW IT IS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHAPTER.

CHARLES C. RYRIE SAYS:

THE TIME ELEMENT IN MATTHEW 13 SHOWS THAT THESE PARABLES ARE LIMITED TO THE [INTER-ADVENT] PERIOD.

HE WRITES

"THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS HAS BECOME LIKE UNTO" - THIS SETS THE TIME - FOR - THE BEGINNING OF THE SUBJECT MATTER INVOLVED.

WHICH MEANS - "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" - WAS ASSUMING THE FORM - DESCRIBED IN THE PARABLES - AT THE TIME WHEN CHRIST WAS PERSONALLY MINISTERING ON THE EARTH.

THE END OF THE TIME PERIOD -- COVERED BY THESE PARABLES IS INDICATED BY THE PHRASE -- "END OF THE WORLD" OR MORE LITERALLY -- THE "CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE" -- (VS 39-49).

THIS IS THE TIME OF THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST -- WHEN HE SHALL COME IN POWER AND GREAT GLORY.

THEREFORE

IT IS CLEAR THAT THESE PARABLES ARE CONCERNED -- ONLY -- WITH THAT TIME BETWEEN THE DAYS WHEN CHRIST SPOKE THEM ON EARTH -- AND THE END OF THIS AGE

— KEYS TO INTERPRETATION —

WHEN INTERPRETING CHAPTER 13 --

① SOME OF THE PARABLES ARE INTERPRETED BY JESUS HIMSELF. SO -- THERE CAN BE NO UNCERTAINTY AS TO THEIR MEANING -- NOR -- THE STANDARD OR METHOD -- BY WHICH -- THE REST OF THE PARABLES -- ARE TO BE INTERPRETED

ANY INTERPRETATION OF THE COMPLETE GROUP OF PARABLES --

MUST BE IN HARMONY WITH THOSE WHICH ARE INTERPRETED BY THE LORD.

② THE SECOND KEY ~

WHILE MANY OF THESE PARABLES ARE IN ~ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ~ THESE "FIGURES" USED ARE ~ FAMILIAR ONES THROUGH THE SCRIPTURE ~ AND THEREFORE ~ WILL HAVE THE SAME USAGE HERE ~ THEY ARE NOT ISOLATED FIGURES.

GRAMMAR SCROGGIE :

IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE ~ KEY ~ TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THESE PARABLES ~ IS IN [V.S. 52].

"EVERY SCRIBE WHICH IS INSTRUCTED UNTO THE "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" IS LIKE UNTO A MAN THAT IS AN HOUSEHOLDER ~ WHICH BRINGETH OUT OF HIS TREASURE THINGS NEW AND OLD."

THESE WORDS ARE SPOKEN OF THE THINGS ~ WHICH PRECEDE ~ AND SURELY SPEAK ~ OF THE PARABLES AS SOME NEW AND SOME OLD ~ BUT WHICH ARE OLD AND WHICH ARE NEW?

IN [V.S. 1] WE READ THAT OUR LORD ~ WENT OUT OF THE HOUSE AND SAT

BY THE SEASIDE" AND "TAUGHT" IN (VS 36)
 "THEN JESUS SENT THE MULTITUDE
 AWAY - AND WENT INTO THE HOUSE" -
 AND "TAUGHT"

THUS

THE PARABLES ARE DIVIDED INTO "4"
 SPOKEN IN PUBLIC AND "3" SPOKEN IN
 PRIVATE... AND THE EVIDENCE ~~PROVES~~
 GOES TO SHOW - [IF VS 52 IS THE KEY
 TO INTERPRETATION] THAT THE FIRST 4
 ARE THE "NEW" TREASURES OF TRUTH AND
 THE LAST 3 ARE THE OLD - THAT IS -
 TRUTHS REVEALED BEFORE.

ASSUMING THIS

THIS PRESENT AGE - IS PRESENTED
 TO US IN A SERIES OF SEVEN -
 PROGRESSIVE PICTURES - DESCRIBING -
 THE COURSE OF THE KINGDOM -
 IN MYSTERY - NOTE:

- NEW THINGS -

① THE SEED AND THE SOILS:

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM

② THE WHEAT AND THE DARNEL:

FALSE IMITATION OF THE - IN THE
 KINGDOM -

③ THE MUSTARD TREE:
WIDE, VISIBLE EXTENSION OF
THE KINGDOM.

④ THE LEAVEN IN THE MEAL:
INSIDIOUS [PROCEED IN A GRADUAL,
SUBTLE WAY, BUT WITH HARMFUL
EFFECTS] CORRUPTION OF THE
KINGDOM.

THE OLD THINGS

⑤ THE TREASURE:
THE ISRAEL NATION

⑥ THE PEARL:
THE JEWISH REMNANT DURING THE
TRIBULATION... ALONG WITH THE
CHURCH -

⑦ THE DRAG-NET:
THE JUDGEMENT OF THE NATIONS AT
THE END OF THE TRIBULATION.

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLES

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO GIVE A DETAILED STUDY OF THE PARABLES — FOR OUR PURPOSE IS TO TRACE THE LORD'S REVELATION CONCERNING THE COURSE OF — THIS PRESENT AGE — IN THIS ESCHATOLOGICAL CONSIDERATION.

① THE SOWER AND THE SOILS [MATTHEW 13:3-9 — 18-23]

FROM THE INTERPRETATION GIVEN BY THE LORD — SEVERAL IMPORTANT FACTS NEED UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING — THIS PRESENT AGE —

② THIS AGE IS ONE THAT IS CHARACTERIZED BY — THE SOWING OF SEED — WHICH IN MARK'S GOSPEL, IS SHOWN TO BE THE WORD — BUT HERE IS SEEN TO BE MEN WHO ARE SONS OF THE KINGDOM.

③ WITHIN THE AGES — THERE IS A "MARKED" DIFFERENCE — IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SOILS — FOR RECEPTION OF THE ~~SEED~~ SEED [WORD] SOWN.

④ THE AGE IS MARKED BY OPPOSITION

TO THE WORD FROM THE WORLD ~
THE FLESH ~ THE DEVIL.

① DURING THE COURSE OF THE AGE
THERE WILL BE A DECREASING ~
RESPONSE TO THE SOWING OF THE
SEED ~ FROM ~ A HUNDREDFOLD ~
TO SIXTY ~ TO THIRTY. SUCH IS THE
COURSE OF THE AGE.

[MARK 4:13] REVEALS THAT THIS
PARABLE ~ WITH THE REVELATION ~
OF THE PROGRAM WHICH IT MAKES ~
"IS BASIC" ~ TO THE UNDERSTANDING
OF THE OTHER PARABLES IN THE
DISCOURSE. ("KNOW YE NOT THIS ~
PARABLE? ~ HOW WILL YE KNOW
ALL PARABLES?") "SO" ~ THE ~
REMAINING PARABLES DEAL WITH
THE ~ "DEVELOPMENT" OF THE ~
~ SEED-SOWING PROGRAM.

② THE WHEAT AND THE TARES ~
[MATTHEW 13:24-30 ~ 36-43]

THIS SECOND PARABLE IS LIKEWISE
INTERPRETED BY THE LORD. SEVERAL
FACTS ARE REVEALED THROUGH IT
~ CONCERNING THE COURSE OF
THE AGE.

(a) THE TRUE SOWING -- MENTIONED IN THE FIRST PARABLE -- IS TO BE IMITATED BY A FALSE SOWING.

(b) THERE IS TO BE A SIDE BY SIDE -- DEVELOPMENT -- OF THAT WHICH IS GOOD -- AND WITH -- THAT WHICH IS EVIL -- AS TO THE RESULTS OF THESE TWO SOWINGS.

(c) THERE WILL BE A JUDGEMENT -- AT THE END OF THE AGE -- TO SEPARATE THE GOOD FROM THE EVIL.

THE GOOD WILL BE RECEIVED INTO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM -- THE EVIL WILL BE EXCLUDED.

(d) THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF EACH SOWING -- CAN BE DETERMINED, ONLY BY FRUITFULNESS OR FRUITLESSNESS OF THAT WHICH IS SOWN -- NOT AN OUTWARD OBSERVATION -- BUT HEART INWARD SOIL.

MANY INTERPRETATE THAT THIS SECOND PARABLE IS TO BE RELATED PARTICULARLY TO THE TRIBULATION PERIOD -- AND IS TO BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE SOWING OF THE FIRST PARABLE.

IN THE FIRST PARABLE - THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE "WORD" - AND IN THE SECOND ON THE "CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM" (MATT 13:38)

IN THE FIRST PARABLE - THE SEED IS SOWN IN THE HEARTS OF MEN - IN THE SECOND IT IS SOWN IN THE WORLD.

IN THE FIRST PARABLE "SEED AND SOILS" - THERE IS NO MENTION OF JUDGEMENT.

IN THE "WHEAT AND TARES" - THE AGE ENDS IN JUDGEMENT - THIS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT "TWO" SOWING ARE INDICATED:

FIRST:

~~AND~~ THAT THROUGHOUT THE AGE - PRINCIPALLY BY THE CHURCH -

SECOND:

IN THE TRIBULATION PERIOD - JUST PRIOR TO THE END OF THE AGE - WHEN GOD IS DEALING WITH ISRAEL ONCE AGAIN. NOTE: THE INDICATIONS - IN THE SECOND PARABLE - THAT THIS IS RELATED TO ISRAEL - RATHER THAN THE TO THE CHURCH:

① THE TERM "CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM" - IS USED IN

MATTHEW TO REFER TO ISRAEL (8:11-12)
 -- AND I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT MANY
 SHALL COME FROM THE EAST AND WEST, AND
 SHALL SIT DOWN WITH ABRAHAM, AND
 ISAAC, AND JACOB -- IN THE KINGDOM OF
 HEAVEN. BUT -- "THE CHILDREN OF THE
 KINGDOM" -- SHALL BE CAST OUT -- INTO
 OUTER DARKNESS -- -- THERE SHALL BE
 WEEPING AND GNASING OF TEETH.

- ② THE JUDGEMENT OUTLINED RELATES TO THE TIME WHEN GOD WILL AGAIN BE DEALING WITH ISRAEL -- AS A NATION. THIS WILL BE AT THE END OF THE AGE.
- ③ THE WHEAT AND THE TARES GROW TOGETHER -- UNTIL THE JUDGEMENT -- BUT THE CHURCH WILL BE RAPTURED BEFORE THE TRIBULATION BEGINS.
- ④ THE JUDGEMENT THAT FALLS UPON THE WICKED -- COMES THROUGH THE ANGLES -- -- BEFORE THE RIGHTEOUS ARE REWARDED [REV 20] -- -- SO THAT THE CHRONOLOGY -- HERE DEPICTS -- THE REMOVAL OF THE WICKED -- SO THAT -- ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS ARE LEFT.
- ⑤ THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM -- IS SET

UP IMMEDIATELY AFTER THIS JUDGEMENT. (REV 20: 4-5)

6) THE CHURCH IS NEVER JUDGED TO DETERMINE WHO WILL ENTER INTO GLORY AND WHO WILL BE EXCLUDED FOR ALL THE CHURCH IN THE RAPTURE ARE GRANTED ENTERANCE.

THIS WOULD OR SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THIS PARABLE HAS PRIMARY REFERENCE TO ISRAEL DURING THE TRIBULATION PERIOD.

"YET"

IT IS A FACT THE PRESENT AGE IS TO BE "CHARACTERIZED" BY A FALSE SOWING IN COMPETITION WITH THE TRUE.

THE MUSTARD SEED

(MATTHEW 13: 31-32)

IN JEWISH IDIOM A MUSTARD SEED WAS USED TO WEIGH WHAT WAS CONSIDERED THE SMALLEST MEASURABLE AMOUNT.

THUS

THE INSIGNIFICANT BEGINNING OF THE NEW FORM OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS BEING STRESSED.

THE MUSTARD IS A PLANT THAT GROWS IN ONE YEAR -- FROM THE SEED TO A HEIGHT OF "20" TO "30" FEET.

THIS PART OF THE PARABLE STRESSES THE GREAT GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM -- ONCE -- IT IS INTRODUCED.

THE KINGDOM WILL GROW FROM AN INSIGNIFICANT BEGINNING -- TO DEVELOPE INTO GREAT PROPORTIONS.

HISTORICALLY -- THE NEW FORM OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN -- ONLY CAN BE REACHED -- BY FAITH -- HAD ITS BEGINNING WITH ONLY A FEW TO PROCLAIM IT -- YET IN SPIE OF THAT -- IT WILL REACH TO A GREAT SIZE.

IN PARALLEL -- THE TREE REPRESENTED NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S KINGDOM (DAN 4:20-22) THE BIRDS IN THE TREE REPRESENTED -- THE PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED BENEFIT FROM NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S KINGDOM. (U.S. 12) DAN 4

HERE THE MUSTARD REVEALS THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN -- IN ITS NEW FORM -- WILL HAVE AN INSIGNIFICANT BEGINNING -- BUT, WILL GROW TO A GREAT SIZE AND MULTITUDES WILL BENEFIT -- FROM IT --

THE LEAVEN HIDDEN IN THE MEAL [MATTHEW 13:33]

WHEN LEAVEN IS USED IN SCRIPTURE IT FREQUENTLY SUGGESTS EVIL. (EX 12:15) (LEV 2:11) (MATT 16:6) (MARK 8:15) (GAL 5:9) -- SO FORTH.

IT IS USED IN THE SACRIFICES (LEV 2:1-3) (LUKE 13:20-21) WHICH REPRESENTS THE PERFECTION OF THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST, THUS IT IS NOT ALWAYS USED FOR EVIL.

IN THIS PARABLE -- THE EMPHASIS IS NOT ON THE LEAVEN ITSELF, AS THOUGH TO EMPHASIS ITS CHARACTER, BUT THAT THE LEAVEN HAS BEEN "HIDDEN" IN THE MEAL -- TO STRESS THE WAY "LEAVEN WORKS" AFTER BEING PLACED INTO THE MEAL.

WHEN LEAVEN IS PLACED, "HIDDEN", AN "IRREVERSIBLE" PROCESS HAS BEGUN THAT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL IT HAS COMPLETED ITS PROCESS OF LEAVENING.

THIS IS INTENDED TO STRESS THE WAY -- THE NEW FORM OF THE KINGDOM WILL DEVELOP.

THE POWER IN THE KINGDOM --

WILL NOT BE EXTERNAL BUT ->
 ~ INTERNAL - WITHIN - BY ITS
 INTERNAL WORKING - IT WILL
 EFFECT AN EXTERNAL TRANSFORMATION.

ALL PREVIOUS KINGDOMS HAD BEEN
 INTRODUCED BY MILITARY MIGHT -

- THIS NEW KINGDOM WILL FLOURISH
 AND OVERCOME - NOT BY MILITARY
 MIGHT - BUT BY A NEW PRINCIPLE -

- "THE POWER WITHIN" - (ZECH 4:6)
"BY MY SPIRIT"

THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED
 AND THE LEAVEN HIDDEN IN THE MEAL
 - STRESS THE GROWTH OF THE NEW
 FORM OF THE KINGDOM.

THE HIDDEN TREASURE

(MATTHEW 13:44)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PARABLE IS
 TO REPRESENT OR REVEAL THE ->
 RELATIONSHIP OF ISRAEL TO ->
 ~ THIS PRESENT AGE ~

"ALTHOUGH" SET ASIDE BY GOD UNTIL
 THIS AGE IS COMPLETE - YET, ISRAEL
 IS NOT FORGOTTEN - AND THIS
 - PRESENT AGE - DOES HAVE
 - REFERENCE TO THAT PROGRAM -

LET US TAKE NOTICE:

① THAT AN INDIVIDUAL - WHO IS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST - IS PURCHASING A TREASURE - AND THIS PURCHASE WAS BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AT THE - CROSS.

② THIS TREASURE IS HIDDEN AWAY IN A FIELD - UNSEEN BY MEN - BUT KNOWN BY THE PURCHASER.

③ DURING THE AGE - THIS PRESENT AGE - THE PURCHASER DOES NOT COME INTO THE POSSESSION OF HIS PURCHASED TREASURE - BUT ONLY INTO THE POSSESSION OF THE PLACE IN WHICH THIS TREASURE RESIDES -

THIS PARABLE IS SHOWING THAT CHRIST HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION - (IN CHRIST JESUS) - FOR ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE - IN THIS AGE - EVEN THOUGH - THIS PRESENT AGE - ENDS - WITHOUT HIS - HAVING APPROPRIATED HIS TREASURE.

THIS TREASURE WILL BE -
"UNEARTHED"

WHEN HE COMES TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM. ISRAEL IS NOW IN ~
~ BLINDNESS ~ (ROM 11:25) ~ BUT IS POSSESSED ~ IN CHRIST.

THE PEARL

(MATTHEW 13:45-46)

WHILE SOME RELATE THE PEARL TO THE BELIEVING REMNANT ~ SAVED AT THE END OF THE AGE ~ MOST OF INTERPRETERS ~ RELATE THE PEARL TO THE CHURCH.

THAT BEING SAID ~ THE LORD IS SHOWING THAT ~ WITHIN THIS PRESENT AGE ~ IN ADDITION TO ACQUIRING THE TREASURE ~ ISRAEL ~ HE WILL ALSO ACQUIRE ~ FOR HIS PERSONAL POSSESSION ~ THAT WHICH WAS BORN THROUGH INJURY ~ ~ THE CHURCH.

WE NOTICE

① THAT THE CHURCH ~ LIKE THE PEARL ~ BECOMES THE POSSESSION OF THE ~ "MERCHANTMAN" ~ CHRIST ~ BY HIS PURCHASE.

② THE CHURCH ~ LIKE THE PEARL ~ IS TO BE FORMULATED BY GRADUAL ~ EXTERNAL ADDITION.

- ③ THE CHURCH - LIKE THE PEARL -
 CAN ONLY BECOME CHRIST'S
 ADORNMENT - BY BEING LIFTED
 - OUT - OF THE PLACE [WORLD] IN
 WHICH IT WAS FORMED - THE ~~PRESENT~~
 - PRESENT AGE PURPOSE -

THE DRAGNET [MATTHEW 13:47-50]

THIS PARABLE INDICATES THAT THE
 AGE IS TO END IN JUDGEMENT -
 PRINCIPALLY - UPON THE GENTILE
 NATIONS - SINCE THE NET IS TO BE
 CAST INTO THE SEA (VS 47).

THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO THE JUDGMENT
 ON ISRAEL - DEPICTED IN THE
 SECOND PARABLE.

THE UNSAVED WILL BE EXCLUDED
 FROM THE KINGDOM THAT IS TO BE
 ESTABLISHED - AS PREVIOUSLY
 TAUGHT IN THE PARABLES - AND
 - THE RIGHTEOUS (SAVED) WILL BE
 TAKEN INTO THE KINGDOM.

IT IS TO BE NOTICE OR NOTED:

THERE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN
 THE - "THE MYSTERIES OF THE
 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" - [MATT 13]

AN THE MYSTERIES - REFERED TO BY PAUL.

THE MYSTERY OF THE SOWER CLOSELY PARALLELS THE MYSTERY OF --- GODLINESS - ~~ON THE SOWER~~ IN 1 TIMOTHAY [3:16].

ALONG WITH THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE "MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS" IN [2 THESSALONIANS 2:7] - WHICH ~~IS~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS THE HEAD OF A SYSTEM.

THE PARALLEL OF LEAVEN - PARALLELS THE MYSTERY OF BARYLON - OF [REVELATION 17:1-7]

THE PARALLEL OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE - PARALLELS THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL'S BLINDNESS (ROM 11:25)

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL - PARALLELS THE MYSTERY "APPLICABLE" - TO THE CHURCH MENTIONED IN - [EPHESIANS 3:3-9], [COLOSSIANS 1:26-27] [ROMANS 16:25]

NEXT

THE LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES - [REVELATION 2-3]