

## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

### LESSON 2

#### Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 34-43)

##### Context

1. In light of the rejection by the religious leaders of Jesus (Matthew 12), Jesus explains why the multitudes are not properly receiving His words in the parable of the soils (Matthew 13:18-23). Jesus came offering the kingdom to Israel, who rejected Him. Now, in Matthew 13, Jesus begins to teach in parables the mystery of a different kingdom program. In Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52 what is Jesus trying to describe? How do you know this program of God is different from what He has previously offered in Matthew 4:17 to Israel? Hint: see Matthew 13:11, 34-35.

2. Who is the man who sowed good seed (v. 24)? What is the seed? What is the field? Matthew 13:37-38

3. What are tares? Who do they represent (v. 38)? Why does He use tares to be contrasted with wheat (v. 26, 29)?

4. Who is the enemy (v. 25, 39)? Does this parable presuppose that the devil is a real person who exists? How would you describe him and his purposes according to the following passages: I Peter 5:8, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ?

5. Does the Bible express that in this "Church Age" that we currently live in (before the second coming of Christ), we are engaged, whether we perceive it or not, in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)? God has allowed Satan a certain amount of freedom and power during the Church Age. In this parable the evil one is allowed to continue his adversarial work until the harvest. In Matthew 13:28-29 how does the good sower answer his followers who want to root up the tares? In this age we live in, God is allowing good and evil to co-exist. Why doesn't God put an end to evil through the judgment He has promised? 2 Peter 3:9, I Timothy 2:4

6. According to the following passages, how is Satan described: Revelation 12:9-10, I Peter 5:8, John 8:44, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2, John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11? God is allowing Satan's work to continue. What is one reason that bad things happen to good people? Now, before harvest, has God given a solution to this problem (I Corinthians 6:19-20, I John 4:4)?

7. What will be the destiny of the counterfeit kingdom (the tares) that Satan plants (13:40-42)?

8. What is the promise given to secure the destiny of the wheat (Matthew 13:30, 43; John 10:27-29, 14:2-3; 2 Peter 3:13)?

9. Who are the reapers who separate the wheat from the tares (choose one):

- a. the preachers
- b. the evangelists
- c. the theologians
- d. fruit-checkers-R-US group
- e. Matthew 13:39 \_\_\_\_\_

If it is not our job to separate, what should be our attitude and role toward suspected tares (Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)?

10. This parable is teaching that in this Church Age the believer and unbeliever may be indistinguishable. According to the Bible, how can you know, and alleviate any doubt, that you are "the wheat" and not the "tare" (I John 5:11-13, Romans 8:35-39)?