

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#23 The Hidden Treasure

The Kingdom of Heaven began with the sowing of the Word of God in the hearts of men. Much of the seed did not bear fruit, but some was fruitful.

The next 3 parables of Matt. 13, concern opposition the Kingdom of Heaven would encounter.

- The Parable of the Tares explains that Satan will plant poisonous weeds [counterfeit Christians] beside true believers or wheat. This mixture will continue until the end of the age when Christ returns and the angels separate the false from the true.
- The Parables of the Mustard Seed and Leaven represent the corruption of the visible Church through abnormal, false outward growth and the inner corruption of false teaching.

This enormous pseudo-kingdom or apostate church is Satan's most successful strategy. By it he has deceived many to embrace Christianity without a saving relationship to Jesus Christ.

It would seem Satan is winning! But the test is at the end of the Age - not during the Age.

The final three parables shift from opposition to address the outcome of the Kingdom.

They answer the question, "How will this present age end?" The disappointments of the first four parables are now eclipsed by triumph. Not all of the seed is wasted!

Satan will be defeated, God's purposes will prevail and Christ's Kingdom will be established on earth.

I Corinthians 10:32 Don't become a stumbling block to Jews or Greeks or to the church of God.

In broad strokes the Lord paints the human race into these 3 groups. The next 3 parables will show us what the Lord is doing on the earth in relation to these 3 groups.

Hidden Treasure - Israel Pearl of Great Price—Church Net - Gentiles

These 3 groups appear throughout the New Testament.

The Jews are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The Greeks or Gentiles refer to everyone who is not a Jew and has not trusted Christ.

The Church represents all who have trusted Christ regardless of race, gender or social status

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

In a remarkable way, the final 3 parables address the outcome of Christ's Kingdom as it relates to each of these 3 distinct groups.

The Outcome of the Kingdom

Matt. 13:44 "The kingdom from heaven is like treasure hidden in a field that a man found and hid. In his excitement he went and sold everything he had and bought that field."

Elements: Field; Treasure; Buyer

Many interpret this parable: Jesus Christ is the "Hid Treasure."

The sinner finds Christ and gives up all that he possesses to gain Him and be saved.

This interpretation is contrary to the Gospel plan of salvation.

1. Jesus Christ is NOT a Hidden Treasure.

In Acts 26:26 Paul reminded King Agrippa that the "life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was not done in a corner."

In the first parable, the farmer went into the world spreading His good seed.

Believers are commanded to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Mark 16:15 As you go into the entire world, proclaim the gospel to everyone.

Rev. 5:9 Those gathered around the throne are from every tribe, language, people and nation.

So there's nothing hidden about Christ or the Gospel!

2. The sinner CANNOT "find Christ" because he is in darkness, blind, stubborn and has an acute case of spiritual ignorance. [Rom. 3:10ff]

3. The sinner has nothing to sell. Christ is not for sale nor is He hidden in a field [world] nor having found Christ does the sinner "hide Him again!"

4. The "Field" is the World. The sinner is not to "purchase" the World, but to give it up. Could the sinner even purchase the whole world?

5. The Savior finds the lost sinner. [Luke 19:10]

6. Salvation is not something that can be "bought." It is a free gift. [Rom. 6:23]

7. The sinner does not buy Christ; Jesus Christ buys the sinner. [I Cor. 6:20]

8. Salvation is free and is something to be "received" [John 1:12] "without money" and "without price." [Isa. 55:1]

Mark 4:13 Know ye not this parable? [the Sower] and how then will ye know all parables?

1. The Field = The World

2. The Man = The Son of Man or Christ who is the purchaser of the Field [Matt. 13:37]

Question: Why should Christ purchase the Field? Doesn't the world belong to His Father?

Consider: A usurper, the Devil, had taken possession of the "Field," the world.

Belief: The Parable of the Hidden Treasure concerns the outcome of the Kingdom as it relates to Israel and the Jewish people.

1. The Hidden Treasure was not in the Field [world] when Satan took possession.

It was placed there afterward.

2. It did not belong to the Devil. It belonged to God who hid it in the Field from the Devil.

3. Jesus Christ found it. The only way to get the "Treasure" was to buy the "Field."

4. So Christ hid the Treasure again until He would purchase the Field.

5. Then Christ purchased the Field.

6. The price He paid was all He possessed.

II Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Although he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich.

Treasure is a term the Lord used to describe His people in the Old Testament.

Ex.19:5 - Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine

Of all people on earth, God chose Israel to be:

1. His royal diadem Isa. 62:3
2. Witnesses Of God Isa. 43:10-12
3. Treasured possession Deut. 7:6; 14:2; 26:18

Psa.135:4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession. This phrase signifies an item of immeasurable worth. Of every nation on earth, God set His love on the Jewish people and chose them to glorify Him to all nations.

Note: Israel's exalted position and privilege as God's treasure was contingent on their obedience. Their glory isn't inherent, but reflected.

Note: If they refused to obey God's voice, God's intentions for them could not be fulfilled. God wanted to shower them with all the blessings promised in Deut. 28.

But these blessings could only be experienced when they were rightly related to Him. During the reign of Kings David and Solomon, the world was given a glimpse of what a nation could be when God is given His rightful place. When the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon, she was overwhelmed by all she saw. [I Kings 10:7] When she asked how Israel came to be so blessed, Solomon took her to the Temple in Jerusalem. Why?

Because Solomon knew the Lord was the source of Israel's blessings.

From the ratification of the Mosaic covenant on, Israel was obligated to keep the Law.

From Bible history we know the nation failed to do this.

The OT reveals how Israel proved incapable of attaining righteousness by law-keeping.

Israel's Failure: The fact that Israel was a treasure hidden in a field is equivalent to light hidden under a bushel or salt that has lost its saltiness. It's like the parable about a man who hid his talent in the ground and like a fruitless Christian who lives according to the flesh. It's a picture of unrealized potential. Israel was chosen for greatness. They had the potential to show the world how great God is. But their own failures obscured the glory.

Instead of a royal diadem that gleamed with unequalled radiance, the nation became indistinguishable from the heathen around them.

The treasure He intended to display was hidden in a field that represents the world. (v.38)

The nation God called to be holy or separate was mixed in with the "dirt of the societies around them." The magnificence God intended Israel to display was obscured.

In plain language, God's treasured possession was living like trash!

The nation was conquered and removed from the land several times in fulfillment of the warnings given in Deut. 28:63ff. Israel was scattered, hidden and their glory was obscured. This was their status when Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago. Morally and spiritually, the nation had sunk to an all time low. Their golden era had passed and they were living under the iron fist of the Roman Empire. Their leaders were corrupt and the people were poor and miserable. They had no power and no purpose...it was just a buried treasure.

For a period of time when Jesus walked the earth, He uncovered the treasure and let Israel know their true destiny.

Matt. 12:28 ...the kingdom of God is come unto you.

But they rejected their King.

Matt. 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Consider: Their Messiah came but they didn't recognize Him and they missed out!

No...this verse makes it clear they closed their eyes and ears to the truth, and willfully chose not to believe! So what did Jesus do?

As Jesus moved among God's treasured possession, He wept and was moved with compassion.

Matthew 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones to death those who have been sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were unwilling! Look! Your house is left abandoned! I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

They rejected Him, and He rejected them...and Covered The Treasure Back Up.

Their favor: They are God's treasure!

Their failure: They became His buried treasure!

Result: Israel's glory was hidden a 2nd time when the Jews rejected and crucified Jesus.

For 1,900 years after Calvary, Israel was dispersed among the nations. Though the nation was re-established in May of 1948, the Jews are far from God. The bones of Ezekiel's prophecy are coming together, but there is no breath in them. The righteousness required to exalt them to the place of prominence and glory, has not yet come. Their glory is still hidden because Israel has not embraced Jesus Christ, their Messiah and King. Though paid for, their sins have not yet been removed. Through the horrors of the Tribulation, God will regain the attention of His people and His purpose for Israel will be fulfilled.

How did God respond to His way-ward people?

Did He change His mind, cast them off and look for another people group to replace them?

Did God stop loving the Jewish people? Did they forfeit their role as His treasured possession?

The Bible's answer is emphatic. NO!

Rom. 11:29 The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable; without repentance [change of mind].

The promises made to Abraham in Gen.12:1-3 predate the Law and Israel's failures.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

God's Sovereign Choice and plan to bless this nation is Unconditional and Irrevocable.

The Bible insists Israel has glorious future because God is faithful to His covenants!

Since Israel had obligated themselves to keep the Law, the Law owned them. However, the Law is powerless to correct or change man's sinful state. So what could God do? The parable says nothing the man owned was worthy to be compared with the people He valued as His treasure. The man sold ALL He had. This represents total sacrifice that evidenced a love that is extreme and uncommon.

What does this represent? Now seriously, is this what you did when you became a Christian? No, you didn't and neither did I. Yet II Cor. 8:9 says, For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. It refers to the cross where the Son of Man gave His life to purchase the world. Heaven surrendered its best and finest, for the worst of us.

Mark 10:45 Jesus said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many"

Heb. 12:2 Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him. By his death, the sin debt was canceled, the law was fulfilled and many sons were brought to glory.

Conclusion: This parable teaches that Christ's primary purpose for dying on the cross was to redeem God's hidden treasure, Israel. He satisfied the demands of the Law and paid the price to redeem Israel and the world.

Matt. 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Gal. 4:4,5...But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law...

Only when the demands of the Law were satisfied could God redeem His treasured possession.

Consider: Jesus died primarily with Israel in view.

Isa. 53:8 ...*He was stricken for the transgression OF MY PEOPLE.*

The NT says the good news of salvation was to the Jew first.

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Because the Gospel is to the Jew first, the apostles were instructed not to go to the cities of Gentiles or Samaritans. Paul's ministry in new cities began with the Jews living there.

Rom. 1:16 I [Paul] am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Note: Not only did the man sell all he had to purchase the treasure...He purchased the Whole Field to have the treasure in the field. He paid the price required to redeem the world.

John. 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.

I Jn. 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

I Jn. 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Through Israel's failure, the Lord opened the door of salvation to everyone.

Rom. 11:11-15 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? [beyond recovery] God forbid: but rather through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

Israel's Future

Today Israel is the epicenter of world conflict. This was anticipated by the prophetic Scriptures yet Christians are divided over the outcome.

Many believe the Church has replaced Israel.

Replacement Theology: The Root of the Problem

Satan hates the Jews with a passion for several reasons:

1. God chose them to be His witness to the world.
2. Through them God gave the world the Bible.
3. Through them God gave the world the Messiah.
4. God has promised that He will save a great remnant of them.
5. God has promised that thru that remnant He will bless all the nations of the world during the Millennial reign of Jesus.

Satan is determined to destroy every Jew on planet earth so that God cannot keep His promises to them.

I believe the Bible teaches that Israel has not been replaced by the church, but set aside temporarily.

1. The "Treasure" still remains "hid" in the "Field."
2. Israel must remain hid in the Field until the Fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

This is one of the "Mysteries" of the "Kingdom of Heaven."

Rom. 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.

3. Then Christ will come back and claim His "Hid Treasure." Israel will be resurrected from the "Graveyard of the Nations" where she is buried and restored to her own land.

God has a glorious future for His chosen people.

We expect the promises made to Abraham to be literally fulfilled in a coming day.

This parable illustrates this view of God's program for Israel.

A. God Is Not Finished With The Nation Of Israel.

Paul wrote: Rom. 11:1-2 I say then, Hath God cast away [rejected] his people? GOD FORBID.

For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew .

Romans 9-11 strongly emphasize the continuing love of God for the Jews.

Romans 9:4-5 To them belong the adoption - God made them His adopted family.

The Glory cloud - No nation has even had such a physical manifestation of God to lead them.

The covenants - Unconditional promises God has made to them

The giving of the Law - The Scriptures were penned by God through the Jews.

The worship - The leadership of the worship in the OT Temple

The promises - The Messiah descended from the patriarchs.

Rom. 9:27 The Jews who will receive the blessings are a great remnant that will be saved in the end times.

Paul becomes so overwhelmed by the grace of God in never giving up on the Jews that he finally bursts forth with an ecstatic proclamation: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!" [Romans 11:33].

The idea that God has "washed His hands of the Jews" is thoroughly unbiblical.

A pastor put an article in the paper stating he would preach on the subject:

"How to Destroy the Jews." The auditorium was packed.

A Jewish rabbi from the local synagogue was poised and ready for a fight.

The pastor stood: Today's main point: How to destroy the Jews,

Jer. 31:35-37 This is what the LORD says, who gives the sun for light by day,

the laws that govern the moon and stars for light by night,

and who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. The LORD of the Heavenly Armies is his name:

³⁶ "If these laws cease to function in my presence," declares the LORD,

"then the descendants of Israel will cease to be a nation in my presence for all time!"

³⁷ This is what the LORD says: "If the heavens could be measured above,

or the foundations of the earth be searched out below,

then I also would reject all the descendants of Israel because of everything they have done," declares the LORD.

Everyone was amazed, the rabbi was grinning, and a powerful point was made. Nothing can destroy God's people. Not killing all male babies as Pharaoh and Herod tried; not burning their cities as Titus did, not the gas chambers or concentration camps of Hitler, or anyone else!

Isaiah 49:14-16 God says He has the nation inscribed on the palms of His hands!

Ezek. 37:28 and the nations will learn that I, the LORD, am the sanctifier of Israel when I place my sanctuary in their midst forever.

Rom. 3:2b-4a First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the utterances of God.

What if some of the Jews were unfaithful? Their unfaithfulness cannot cancel God's faithfulness, can it? ⁴ Of course not! God is true, even if everyone else is a liar.

B. The Basis Of Israel's Future Hope

[Deut. 4:27-31; 30:1-10; Jer. 31:31-40; Ezek. 16:60-63; Dan. 9:24-27; 12:1-13; Hosea 1:10; 2:23; 6:11; Romans 9 {Israel Past} -Romans 10 {Israel Present} Romans 11 {Israel Future}]

1. Bible prophecy clearly states: The nation of Israel will continue to exist, despite the fact there appears to be no hope for the Jewish people.

a. Bible says that "He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." [Ps. 121:4]

2. During the last half of the Tribulation, God will focus the wrath of the Antichrist upon the Jews.

3. God will supernaturally preserve a Jewish remnant through this holocaust.

a. At the conclusion of it, the Jewish people will be brought to the end of themselves and be motivated to turn to God in repentance.

b. They will accept Yeshua, Jesus, as their Messiah. [salvation of a great remnant]

Zech. 12:10 In the midst of their distress, God will pour on them a spirit of grace and supplication. then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

c. They will cry out: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Zech. 3:9 promises the Lord will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

Paul prophesied in Rom. 11:26, 27 - And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

"The deliverer will come from Zion; He will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

One day He will reclaim His treasure.

Jer. 31:31-34 Look, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I'll make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke my covenant, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "Rather, this is the covenant that I'll make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD.

"I'll put my Law within them and will write it on their hearts. I'll be their God and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will a person teach his neighbor or his relative: 'Know the LORD.'

Instead, they'll all know me, from the least to the greatest of them," declares the LORD.

"Indeed, I'll forgive their iniquity, and I'll remember their sin no more."

The Glorious Outcome Of The Kingdom Of Heaven As It Relates To Israel.

1. That remnant will enter the Millennial Kingdom in the flesh and serve as the initial population of the state of Israel.

2. Jesus will reign in Jerusalem as the King of Kings and Lord of lords. [Ezek. 43:7]

3. David, in his glorified body, will reign as the king of Israel.

4. God will fulfill all the kingdom promises He has made to Israel, to this Jewish remnant and their descendants.

5. This nation will serve as the prime nation of the world. [Isa. 60-61:5]

6. Through them, all God's blessings will flow to the other nations. [Zech. 8:22-23]

7. A day is coming when God's royal diadem will be brought into full view.

Israel will be exalted and glorified among all nations.

Isa. 49:3 - He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."