

1



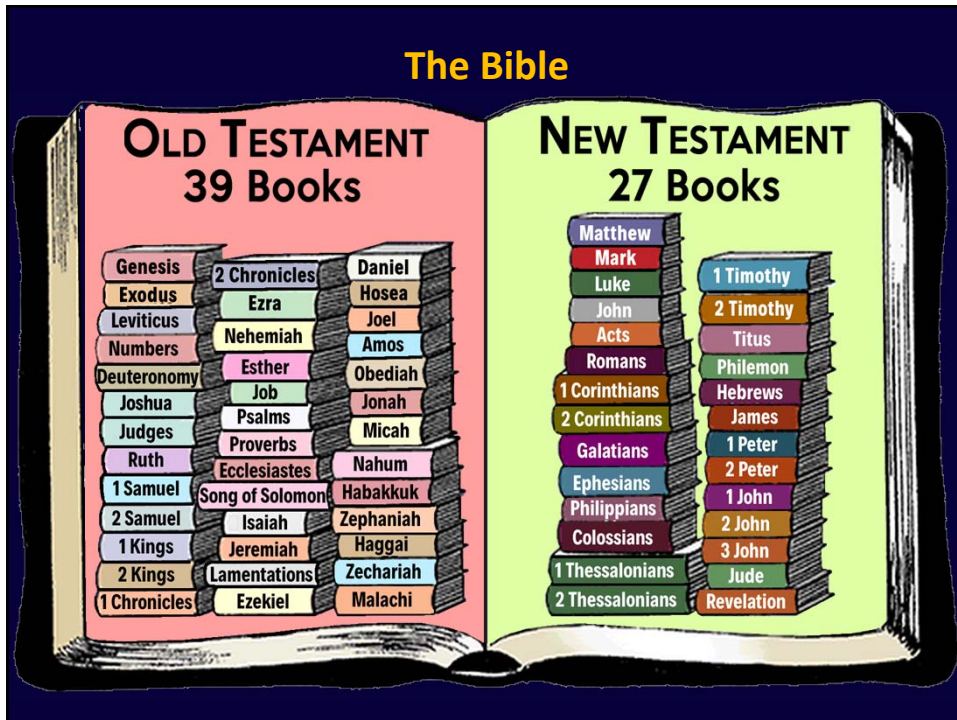
2

KINGDOM

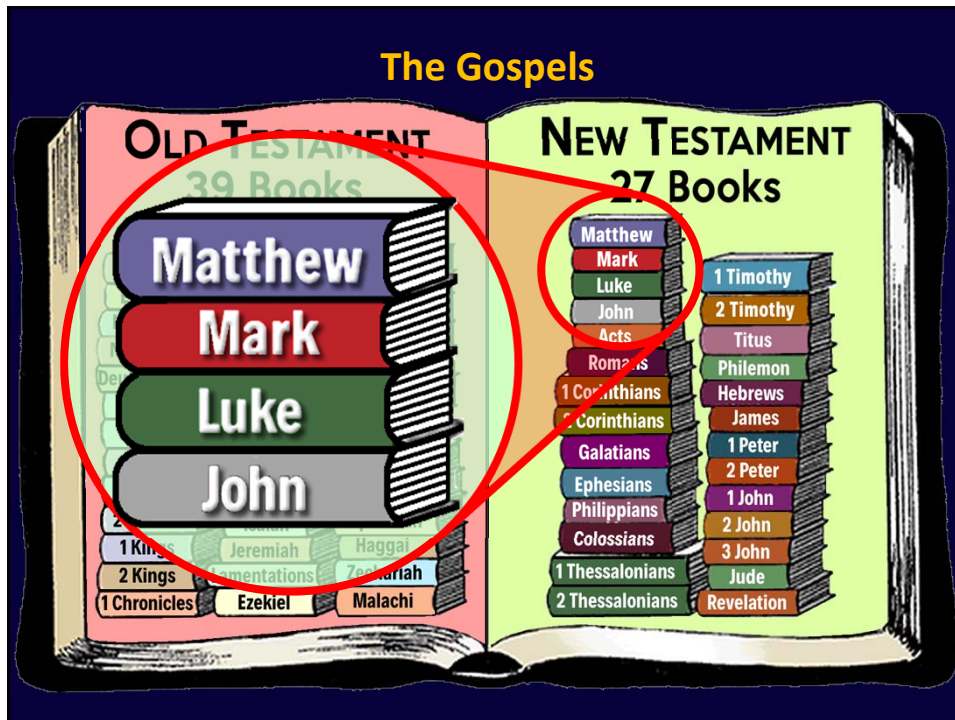
Truth hidden in plain sight

PARABLES

3



4



5

The Gospel message

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

6

Gospel Author

Scribe (*oxygràphos*)

Matthew (Levite tax man)

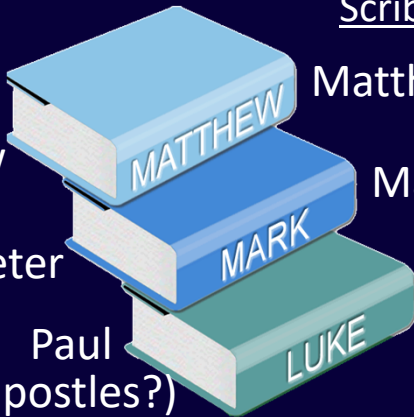
Matthew

Mark (amanuensis)

Peter

Luke (doctor)

Paul (+other apostles?)



The three **Synoptic Gospels** include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence with similar wording.

7

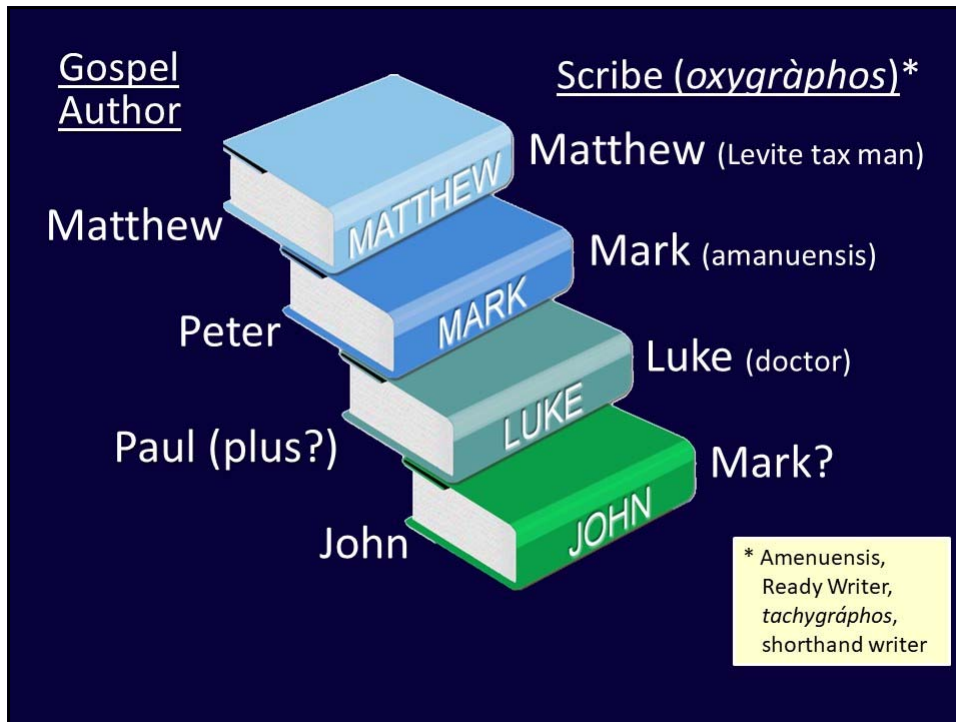
Example: healing the leper

Matthew 8:2-3	Mark 1:40-42	Luke 5:12-13
And behold, a leper came	And, calling out to him, there comes to him a leper	And behold, a man full of leprosy. But, upon seeing Jesus,
and worships	and kneeling and	he fell upon his face and requested
him, saying: Lord, if you wish, I can be cleansed.	saying to him: If you wish, I can be cleansed.	him, saying: Lord, if you wish, I can be cleansed.
	And, moved with compassion,	
And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying: I wish it; be cleansed.	he stretched out his hand and touched him and says to him: I wish it; be cleansed.	And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying: I wish it; be cleansed.
And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.	And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.	And immediately the leprosy left him.

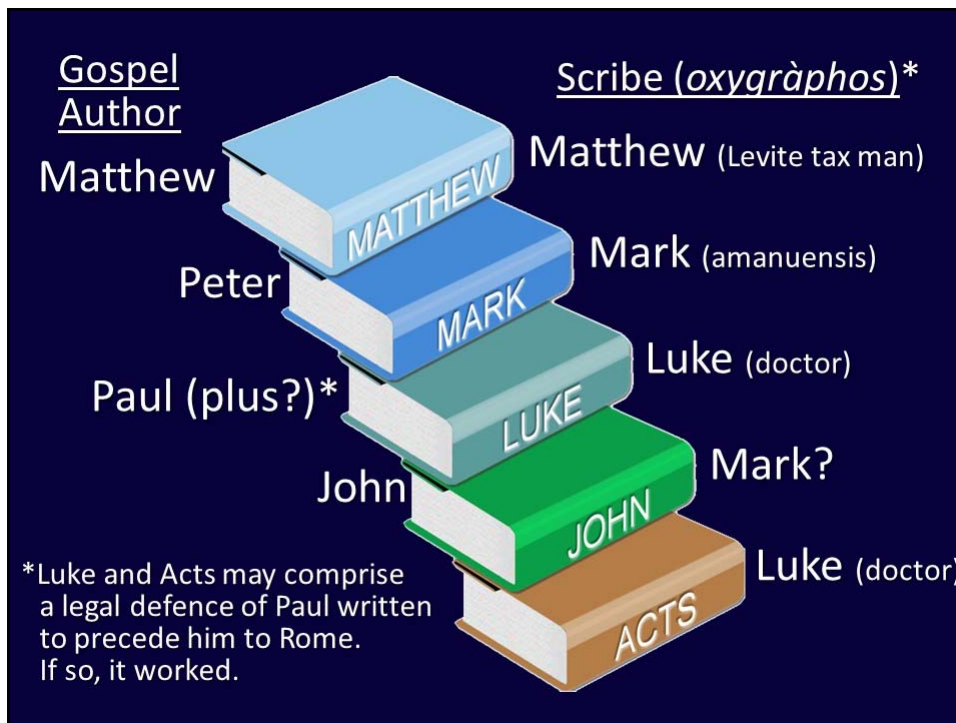


"Christ cleansing a leper"
by
Jean-Marie
Melchior Doze,
1864.

8



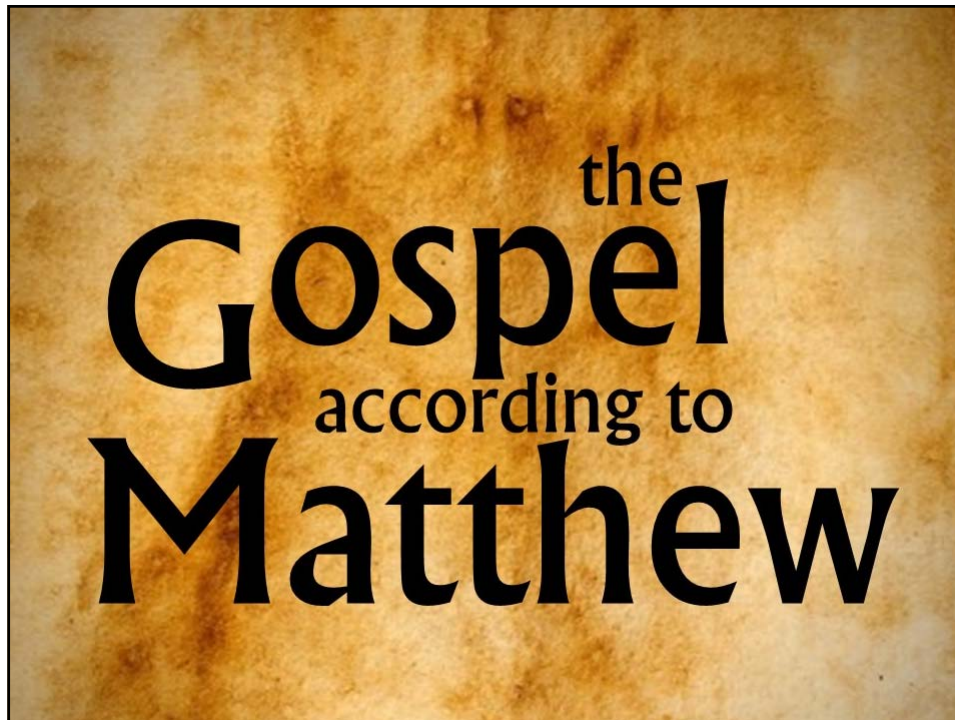
9



10

	2 nd <small>Jesus as King</small> matthew <small>a tax collector</small> written A.D. 40-140	1 st <small>Jesus as Servant</small> mark <small>a missionary</small> written A.D. 55-70	3 rd <small>Jesus as Man</small> luke <small>a doctor</small> written A.D. 62	4 th <small>Jesus as God</small> john <small>a fisherman</small> written A.D. 80-90
Presents as:	MESSIAH	SERVANT	SON OF MAN	SON OF GOD
Genealogy:	Abraham (legal line)	–	From Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Pre-existence)
What Jesus:	Said	Did	Felt	Was
Written to:	Jew	Roman	Greek	Believers (all)
1st Miracle:	Leper cleansed (Jew = sin)	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to wine
Emphasis:	Credentials	Servanthood	Compassion	Jesus' Deity
Ends with:	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit (see Acts)	Promise of return (see Revelation)

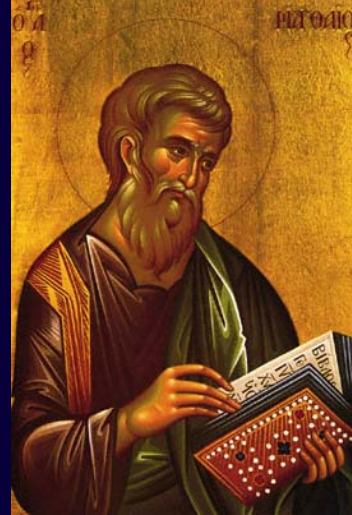
11



12

Who was Matthew?

- Original name “Levi”
- Son of Alphaeus
- Galilean
- A tax collector (publican)
- Left all to follow Jesus
- Renamed “Gift of the Lord”
- Wrote to Jews to prove Jesus the Messiah of the OT.



13

Matthew

- Original name Levi (“joined to [Rome?]”)
- Jesus renamed Matthew “the gift of YHWH”
- Written soon after Jesus’ ministry (AD 40-50)
- The NT is silent on Matthew’s life
- From Capernaum (which rejected Jesus)
- Left wealth, business to follow Jesus
- Tradition has him in Persia, Ethiopia, Syria. Some traditions associate him with Greece

14

The book of Matthew

- **Key theme:** The kingdom
- **Author:** Matthew, a Jew, tax collector w/shorthand
- **Audience:** Jewish readers (in Israel and abroad)
- **Distinctives:** Genealogy of birth, not death – includes five women (Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary).
Traces Jesus lineage back to Abraham.
Jesus' **legal** (Joseph) heredity as son of David.
Jesus' **divine** heritage (Matt 1:18-25).
Introduces Jesus as **doer** and teacher (*rabbi*).
Show that Jesus **fulfilled** Tenakh prophecies.
Records 20 specific miracles witnessed.

15

Distinctives of the book of Matthew

- A detailed narrative of **six major messages**:
 - ① the Sermon on the Mount (chap 5—7)
 - ② the charge to the apostles (chap 10)
 - ③ the parables of the kingdom (chap 13)
 - ④ the lesson on forgiveness (chap 18)
 - ⑤ denunciation of the Pharisees (chap 23)
 - ⑥ Mount of Olives prophecy (chap 24-25)
- Ministry of John the Baptist (bridge to OT)
- Structured account of Jesus' life/ministry
- Introduces the mystical church of Jesus

16

The Gospel of Matthew

- **Introduction**
 - Genealogy, Baptism, Temptations 1-4
- **The Galilean Ministry**
 - The Tenfold Message (Sermon on Mount) 5-8
 - The Ten Miracles 8-10
 - The Ten Rejections 11-18
- **The Climax in Judea**
 - Presentation as King 19-25
 - The Crucifixion 26-27
 - The Resurrection 28

17

The book of Matthew

- In Chapters 1-10 Jesus presents the kingdom of heaven to Israel for 2½ years:
 - Jesus' teaching, preaching, parables, miracles and healings up to Chapter 9, prove His credentials to those with eyes to see and ears to hear
 - The 12 sent out in Chapter 10, more miracles
- Israel's response to John the Baptist in Chap 11
- Israel rejects Jesus in Chapter 12. This chapter ends with the "unpardonable sin."

18

**Most people who claim to
follow Jesus Christ know
far more about the Messenger
than about His Message.**

19

**KING
OR
KINGDOM**

20



21



22

- Attempts to “harmonize” Scripture can often blur critical distinctions.
- In Hebrew and Aramaic, prepositions “of” and “from” are the same word (מן, *min*, of (31X) and from (29X)).
- Matthew’s unique use of “Kingdom of Heaven” is a genitive of *source* (e.g., “Kingdom *from* or *out of* Heaven”).

KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN

KINGDOM
OF GOD

23



24



25



26



27

Parables in the Bible

- Thirty-eight (38) parables of Jesus are recorded in the synoptic Gospels.
 - Six (6) are recorded in all three Gospels.
 - Three (3) are recorded in two of the three Gospels
 - Twenty-nine (29) are recorded in one Gospel only
 - Some of the 38 are also used elsewhere with changes and can thus be counted as additional parables (that counting is excluded here).
- The Gospel of John includes one parable in three parts (the sheep, gate and shepherd, John 10:1-5, 7-18).
- Eleven parables are recorded in the Old Testament.

28

Chapters 8-10: Jesus brings the Kingdom to people



29

Chapters 10: Jesus sends out the 12 Disciples

Expect **acceptance** and **rejection!**



30

Matthew 11 – John the Baptist

¹ Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there to teach and to preach in their cities.

² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ "[The] blind see and [the] lame walk; [the] lepers are cleansed and [the] deaf hear; [the] dead are raised up and [the] poor have the gospel preached to them.

⁶ "And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me ●●●●"

31

Matthew 11

●●●●²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."

²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and to whom the Son wills to.

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

32

Matthew 12

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

² And when the Pharisees saw, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

33

Matthew 12

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

² And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

Stealing grain?

34

Matthew 12

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

² And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

Stealing grain?

No! Halakha **forbids Jews** to **do work** on the Sabbath.

35

Matthew 12

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.

² And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!"

Stealing grain?

No! Halakha **forbids Jews** to **do work** on the Sabbath.

Many modern **appliances** have **Sabbath Mode** that **preclude the need** to **change** temperatures, **close switches** or even **press buttons**.

36



37



38

Matthew 12

³ But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ "how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?"

⁵ "Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶

"Yet I say to you that in this place there is [One] greater than the temple.

⁷ "But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

39

Matthew 12

⁹ Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue.

¹⁰ And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"-- that they might accuse Him.

¹¹ Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? ¹² "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

¹³ Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.

40

Healings on the Sabbath

- Demonic, in Capernaum Mark 1:21-27
- Peter's Mother-in-law Mark 1:29-31
 - Cast out demons on Sunday Mark 1:32
- Impotent Man, in Jerusalem John 5:1-9
- **Man with withered hand** Mark 3:1-6; Matt 12:8-14
- Woman bowed together Luke 13:10-17
- Man with Dropsy Luke 14:1-6
- Man born blind John 9:1-14

41

Matthew 12

¹⁴ Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.

¹⁵ But when Jesus knew, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.

¹⁶ Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah* the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹ And in His name Gentiles will trust."

*Isaiah 42:1-4

42

Matthew 12

²² Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

²⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard they said, "This [fellow] does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

43

Matthew 12

²² Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.

²³ And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

²⁴ Now when the Pharisees heard they said, "This [fellow] does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

1st century Jews did have exorcisms but they required the demons to identify themselves. So if someone was blind and dumb, they couldn't be exorcised.

44

Matthew 12

²⁵ But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

²⁶ "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

²⁷ "And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

²⁸ "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ "Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

45

Matthew 12

³⁰ "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.

³² "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

³³ "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.

46

Matthew 12

³⁴ "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

³⁵ "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

³⁶ "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

³⁷ "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

47

Selah

How many of your sins were yet **in the future** when Jesus died on the Cross to redeem them?

48

Matthew 12

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

⁴⁰ "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

49

Matthew 12

⁴³ "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none."

⁴⁴ "Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds [it] empty, swept, and put in order."

⁴⁵ "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

50

Matthew 12

⁴⁶ While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.

⁴⁷ Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." ⁴

⁸ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

⁴⁹ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Chapter 12 ends the presentation of the **Kingdom of Heaven** to Israel. They rejected it!

Chapter 13 will announce something not in the OT.

51

Chapters 11-12: Responses to Jesus

POSITIVE

Many people

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!

NEUTRAL

John the Baptist

IS JESUS THE MESSIAH?

NEGATIVE

Religious leaders

JESUS IS NOT THE MESSIAH!

52

From this point on
Jesus
speaks publicly
only in parables!

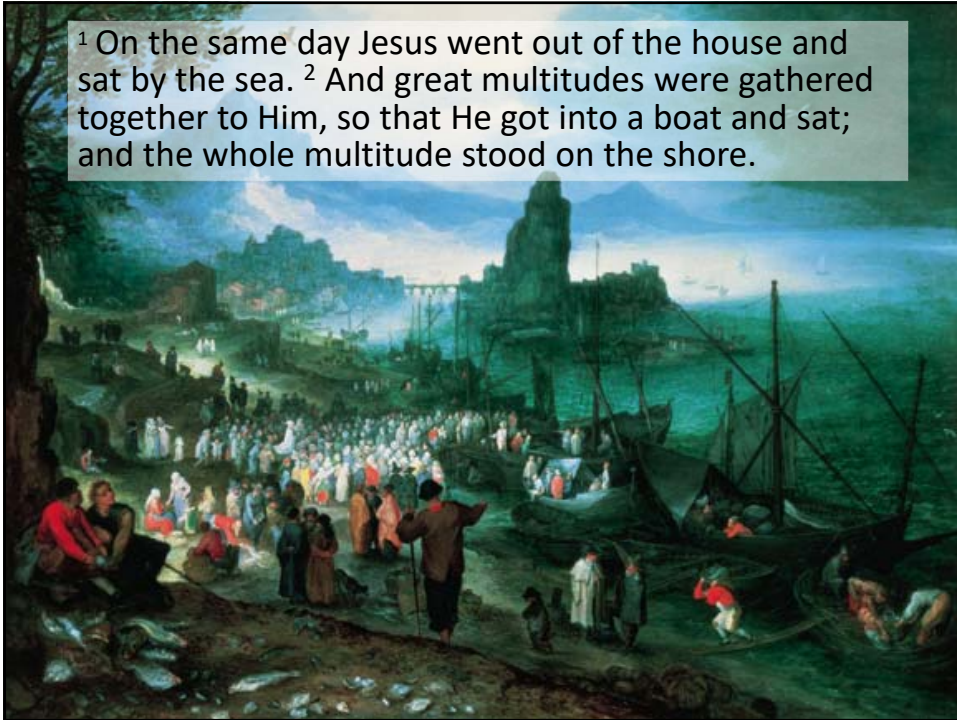
53

Matthew Chapter 13

THE
KINGDOM
PARABLES

54

¹ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.



55

Parable of the sower and the four soils

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

⁴ "And as he sowed, some [seed] fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

⁵ "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

⁷ "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

⁸ "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

⁹ **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

56

Why Jesus spoke in parables

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in **parables**?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them,

"Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has **not** been given.

57

Why Jesus spoke in parables

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in **parables**?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them,

"Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has **not** been given.

The word **parable** means "to cast alongside." It is a story put alongside something else to help make the lesson clear.

But these are not ordinary parables; Jesus called them "the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**" (Matt. 13:11). A biblical **mystery** is "a spiritual truth understood only by divine revelation." It is a "sacred secret" known only to those "on the inside" who learn from the Lord and obey Him.

58

Why Jesus spoke in parables

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

¹¹ He answered and said to them,

"Because **it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has **not** been given.

¹² "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

59

Why Jesus spoke in parables

¹⁴ "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;

¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. [Their] ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, Lest they should understand with [their] hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

60

Why Jesus spoke in parables

¹⁴ "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah* is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;

¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. [Their] ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, Lest they should understand with [their] hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

*Isaiah 6:9

¹⁶ "But blessed [are] your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous [men] desired to see what you see, and did not see [it], and to hear what you hear, and did not hear [it].

61

Spiritual significance of the parable

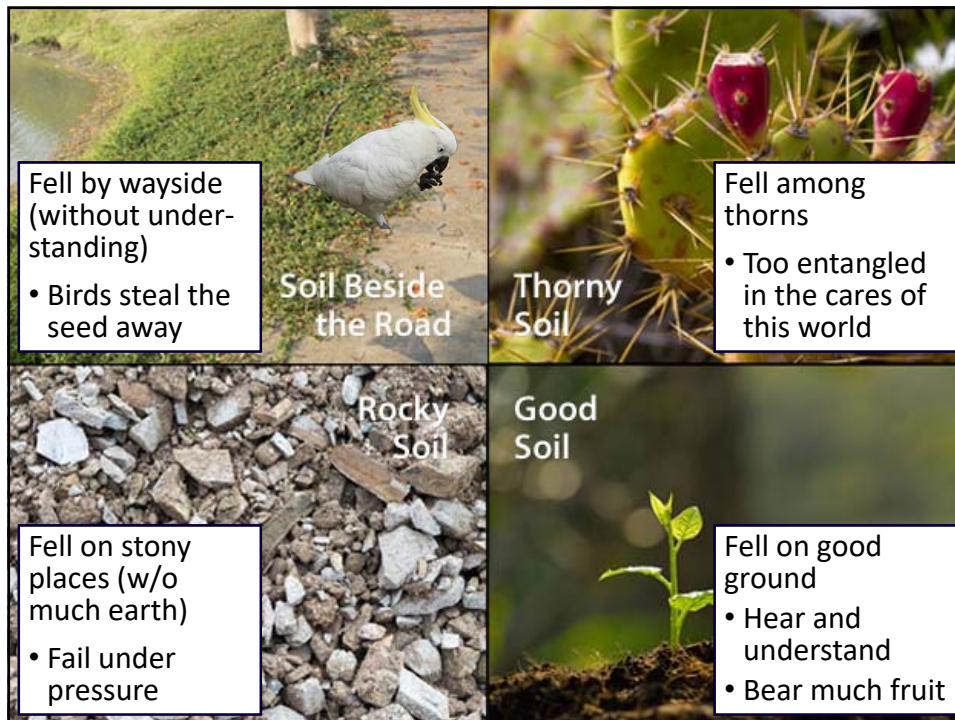
¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand [it], then the wicked [*evil one*] comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

²⁰ "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

²² "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

²³ "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands [it], who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

62



63

Sower and 4 soils (summary)

1. Why does the parable of the sower does not begin with "The kingdom of heaven is like"?
2. What is the "seed"?
3. What do the soils represent?
4. What conditions are required for a good harvest?
5. Who is the sower?
6. What does the sun represent?
7. What environment was Jesus presenting (i.e., a great harvest or rejection?)
8. What is the test of true faith?
9. Can someone believe and still not be saved?
10. What do crop yields (some 100X, 60X, 30X) mean?

64

Parable of the tares (weeds) and the wheat

²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

²⁷ "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.'

The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

65

Tares (a weed, aka cockle, zīzania, darnel)

- Darnel *Lolium temulentum* is a species of rye-grass whose seeds are a strong soporific poison.
- It bears a close resemblance to wheat while growing until the ear appears, but the difference is obvious when mature.
- It grows plentifully in Syria and Palestine.
- Roman law prohibited sowing darnel among the wheat of an enemy.



66

Explanation of the parable of the tares

³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked [one]. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³ "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

67

Some thoughts on the Tares and the Wheat

- Satan opposes the kingdom by trying to snatch the Word from hearts (Matt. 13:4, 19). But when that fails, he uses other means.
- The tares are **imitation Christians**. These counterfeit or false Christians (2 Cor. 11:26) believe a counterfeit gospel (Gal. 1:6–9). Satan encourages counterfeit righteousness (Rom. 10:1–3) and has a counterfeit church (Rev. 2:9). At the end of the age, he will even produce a counterfeit Christ (2 Thess. 2:1–12).
- We must oppose Satan and expose his lies. But we must also sow the Word of God and bear fruit in the place where He has planted us.
- God will sort out the counterfeits. It's not our job.
- The real focus of this parable is on **the righteous!** They persevere and "shine forth" in the end.

68

Parable of the mustard seed

³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."



69

The mustard seed symbolizes something small and insignificant. It produces a large plant, but not a "tree" in the strictest sense, and is not particularly attractive to birds.

Birds in the parable of the sower are satanic (Matt. 13:19). A tree is a symbol of world power (Daniel 4:12; Ezekiel 17:23).

This parable suggests an **abnormal growth** of the kingdom of heaven, such that Satan can work in it.

From humble beginnings, many churches have become influential, wealthy, powerful and complex... and attractive to "birds".

Mustard crop in Israel.

70

Parable of the woman and the leaven

³³ Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."



71

Parable of the woman and the leaven

³³ Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."



What is "leaven"?

1. a substance, as yeast or baking powder, that causes fermentation and expansion of dough or batter.
2. fermented dough reserved for producing fermentation in a new batch of dough.
3. an element that produces an altering or transforming influence.

72

What does this parable indicate?

1. What does leaven symbolise to Jews?
2. Why does it mean that? What's the connection?
3. What sin does God hate most? Why?
4. What happens to leaven during Passover ceremonies?
5. Is there any significance to "three measures of meal"?
6. Are there any exceptions to the negative portrayal of leaven?

73

Parable of the woman and the leaven (summary)

- The mustard seed illustrates false *outward* expansion of the kingdom through marriage with the world (Pergamos), while leaven signals *inward* development of false doctrine (as in Thyatira).
- Throughout the Bible, leaven is a symbol of evil. Like sin, it corrupts by "puffing up".
- Leaven had to be removed from homes during Passover (Ex. 12:15–19; 13:7). It was excluded from sacrifices (Ex. 34:35), except for loaves used at the Feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15–21), where it symbolised Jews and Gentiles in the church.
- Jesus used leaven to picture hypocrisy (Luke 12:1), false teaching (Matt. 16:6–12), and worldly compromise (Matt. 22:16–21). Paul used leaven to picture carnality in the church (1 Cor. 5:6–8) as well as false doctrine (Gal. 5:9).

74

The kingdom parables so far

• The Beginning of the Kingdom

- The parable of the sower and the four soils Ephesus

• Opposition to the Kingdom

- The tares—false Christians Smyrna
- The mustard seed—false growth Pergamos
- The leaven—false doctrine Thyatira

75

The kingdom parables so far

• The Beginning of the Kingdom

- The parable of the sower and the four soils Ephesus

• Opposition to the Kingdom

- The tares—false Christians Smyrna
- The mustard seed—false growth Pergamos
- The leaven—false doctrine Thyatira

Things look bleak!

- The kingdom of heaven began with the sowing of the Word of God in the hearts of men, but most ignored it.
- Then Satan sowed counterfeit Christians, encouraged false growth, and introduced false doctrine.

76

Things look bleak, but....

- The real test is at *the end* of the age, not *during* the age.
- At the close of this age, God will have three peoples:
 - the Jews,
 - the believing *ekklesia*,
 - and the saved Gentiles who will enter into the kingdom.
- So let's look at the rest of the story before we freak out! We have three parables to go.

77

The kingdom parables fulfilled OT prophecy

³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, ³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

**The first four Kingdom parables
were spoken in public.
The last three were spoken
to his Disciples in private.**

78