

COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE
PART 3—PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

- I. The SOWER and the SEED (Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23)
 - A. Age characterized by sowing the seed of the GOSPEL
 - B. Responses VARY, due mainly to differences in the PREPARATION of the SOIL
 - C. Responses VARY, partly due to OPPOSITION to the Word from the WORLD
(stones), the FLESH (thorns), and the DEVIL (birds)
 - D. There will be a DIMINISHING response

- II. The UNCONSCIOUS Growth (Mark 4:26-29)
 - A. Seed would be SOWN
 - B. Growth due to the LIFE within the SEED, not to the EFFORT of the SOWER
 - C. Growth would produce FRUIT at the HARVEST time

- III. The WHEAT and the TARES (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)
 - A. TRUE sowing will be imitated by FALSE sowing
 - B. There will be a side-by-side development of the GOOD and the EVIL
 - C. Final SEPARATION will be possible only at the JUDGMENT at the END of the
age
 - D. The differences evident only by the FRUITFULNESS or FRUITLESSNESS of what
was sown

- IV. The MUSTARD Seed (Matt. 13:31-32)
 - A. Would have an UNIMPRESSIVE BEGINNING
 - B. Would eventually GROW to provide BLESSING and REFUGE for all who come to
it

- V. The Leaven HIDDEN in the Meal (Matt. 13:33)
 - A. If not necessarily EVIL, indicates GROWTH in the kingdom by an irreversible INTERNAL process rather than EXTERNAL influence
 - B. If interpreted as EVIL, indicates FALSE doctrine and CORRUPTION within the kingdom

- VI. The Hidden TREASURE (Matt. 13:44)
 - A. An individual (Jesus Christ) PURCHASES a treasure
 - B. Treasure is hidden in a FIELD, UNSEEN by men but KNOWN to the purchaser
 - C. He will not POSSESS His treasure until it is unearthed when He comes to establish His KINGDOM

- VII. The PEARL (Matt. 13:45-46)
 - A. Becomes the possession of the merchant by PURCHASE
 - B. Formed by GRADUAL accretion
 - C. Could be His adornment only by being LIFTED OUT of the place where it was FORMED

- VIII. The DRAGNET (Matt. 13:47-50)
 - A. This form of the kingdom will END in a gathering for JUDGMENT
 - B. The RIGHTEOUS will be taken IN while the UNRIGHTEOUS will be EXCLUDED
 - C. A judgment of the LIVING, not of the DEAD

- IX. The HEAD of the HOUSEHOLD (Matt. 13:52)
 - A. Some of these characteristics were OLD, having been revealed BEFORE
 - B. Some were NEW, not having been previously REVEALED