

The Parable of the Wheat & the Tares ['The End of the World']

Among all the Lord's parables , the '**Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**' is both unique and unparalleled. Not only does it portray the tumultuous events which Jesus Himself describes as "**the end of the world**" but it also stands-alone as the **ONLY** parable whereby the Lord provided a '*full and detailed explanation*' of all its symbolic elements. So WHY was it afforded this special treatment ? So dire and consequential were the understanding and the implications of this prophetic parable, the Lord sought **to ensure** its meaning in every generation could in no way '**be lost**' on his followers.

To **His disciples** it was imperative they should be forewarned of the dark and perilous events of AD70 soon to come. To **the Ecclesia** (& to **Christianity** in general) the parable was essential to educate , prepare and fortify '*the faithful*' for the trials down through the ages , as **the tares** would war against the **good seed** , even in the household of faith.

Yet the Parable of the Wheat & the Tares was not just a prophecy limited to AD70 ; nor was it simply an instructive guide to the *spiritual warfare* between good and evil to follow in the household of faith. It was far more than this. It was indisputably an '**END-TIMES**' PROPHECY which definitively foreshadowed two separate judgements at **the end** of the Kingdoms of Men - the *judgement of the world* (nations) and the *judgement of the household* (of faith). Beyond all other fulfilments , it was also (most importantly for our time) a message of comfort and reassurance intended for '**His followers in The Last Days**' (*the Saints*) , who will not only live to see these events but also be required to faithfully endure through them. In 2020 , *as the world plunges deeper into chaos* , we urgently need to heed **the Lord's message**.

It's a message that does appear to have been '**LOST**' over time , buried beneath a series of '*inherited doctrines*' and '*misguided beliefs*' that often reflect the dogmas of the apostate churches around us and regrettably cloud our vision and understanding of the last days. The Lord's authoritative account of this '*fulfilment to come*' is both illustrative and clear, but most notably it directly **REFUTES** many 'doctrinal misconceptions' about the end-times that *as a community*, we still cling to today.

THE LORD'S ' PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND THE TARES ' :

DISPELS . . . the '*unscriptural theories*' concerning

1. *Secret Return of the Lord*
2. *Pre-Tribulation Removal of the Saints*
3. *Saints fight alongside Christ at Armageddon*

AFFIRMS . . . the '*bible truths*' concerning

4. *It is 'the Angels' who fight with Christ at Armageddon*
5. *Saints remain 'in the world' during the Time of Trouble / Armageddon*
6. *Saints are hidden and protected (ie. End-times 'Passover')*

For those who may suggest the message has not been lost . . . When was the last time you heard a public lecture that connected the '**Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**' with '**the battle of Armageddon**' ? When we consider the respective bible records (Matt 13 vs. Rev 16, Joe 3, Zech 12-14) the parallel metaphorical language , the mirrored visual imagery and even the precise Hebrew meaning of Armageddon ['*a heap of **SHEAVES** .. in a valley .. for judgement*'] How can we **not** make the connection ? They are unmistakably pointing to the same cataclysmic event , Armageddon !!! With '*so many*' descriptive and pictorial allusions ' throughout ' scripture , there simply cannot be any denial of this . . .

Now also '**many nations are gathered**' against thee,
that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.

But they know not the thoughts of the LORD,
neither understand they his counsel:

For he shall '**gather them**' as the **SHEAVES** into the floor. [**Micah 4 v 11-12**]

Furthermore , we are explicitly told **by the Lord Himself** [not once , but **TWICE** in verses 39 & 49] that this parable relates to "**the end of the world**". Do we not take the Lord Jesus Christ '*at His word*' ? We therefore ask the question , WHY as a community, are we so reluctant to link these parallel records together, when there is overwhelming evidence to do so ? The Lord deliberately underlined the importance of this parable. Are we limiting and denying the full meaning and power of this prophetic '*end-times*' vision to avoid the 'inconvenient bible truths' revealed in the parable ??

It was not the Lord alone who perceived the importance of this parable. We find in Matthew 13 it was the disciples themselves who, upon hearing the series of parables of **the Sower** (vs.3-9, 18-23); **the Wheat and the Tares** (vs.24-30); **the Mustard Seed** (vs.31-32) and finally the **Parable of the Leaven** (vs.33) then returned to the Lord after the multitudes had dispersed. They came seeking more information, specifically about *the meaning* of the Wheat and the Tares. The disciples for their own part, clearly recognised the grave implications of this ' *truly apocalyptic* ' parable and therefore pressed the Lord for a more detailed understanding of these foreboding ' end-time ' events He spoke of.

No doubt pleased His disciples had rightly discerned the crucial nature of this parable (which would have its **full** outworking nearly 2,000 years later) Jesus then set aside time to provide a further ' *expanded* ' commentary (vs.37-40). Again - *unlike any other parable* - the Lord provided a comprehensive explanation of each (agricultural) metaphor used in the parable, by revealing exactly what each symbolised in their ' *real-world* ' fulfillment in the last days :

The Sower	= Son of Man (Christ)
The Field	= The World
The Good Seed	= The children of the Kingdom
The Tares	= The children of the Wicked (World)
The Harvest	= The End of the World (ie. Judgment)
The Reapers	= The Angels (<u>not</u> the saints)

By supplying a complete decoding of virtually all the elements within the parable, the Lord Jesus Christ left no room for uncertainty. Each element of this parable was definitively identified for the benefit of - not just His disciples - but also for the generations of enquiring believers to follow. Most conspicuously though, he left one element within these prophetic visions still unaddressed and undisclosed. **The Wheat.** *Who* - or - *What* did **the Wheat** symbolise ?

When **the Harvest** (v30) is correctly understood to be a ' *latter-day vision* ' of Armageddon, the identities of **The Wheat** and **the Tares** become infinitely clearer. **The Wheat** is **The Ecclesia** (both **the righteous** and **the unrighteous**) who are ' separated ' from the world and from the ' *judgement of fire* ' to come. **The Tares** (in the context of Armageddon) represent the **children of the wicked**, that is **the nations** who are gathered for judgement as ' *the sheaves* ' on the floor.

Having then firmly established the true identity of ALL the elements of the ' **Parable of the Wheat and the Tares** ', we can then turn to the prevailing doctrinal matters that this teaching both ' **REJECTS** ' and also ' **AFFIRMS** ' :

DOCTRINAL MISCONCEPTIONS ' REJECTED '

- 1. ' Secret ' Return of the Lord . . . &**
- 2. ' Pre-Tribulation ' Removal of Saints**

These two commonly held (but biblically erroneous) doctrines are totally and inextricably linked.

The supposed ' **Secret Return** ' of Christ is solely and entirely for the dual purpose of raising the dead and collecting the living believers. It therefore goes hand-in-hand with the notion of a ' **Pre-Tribulation** ' **Calling Away** of the believers. While these are ' *comforting* ' theories . . . they are entirely without scriptural foundation and support for them CANNOT be found anywhere in God's Word, the Bible. [*We welcome any evidence proving otherwise.*] Worse than this, they are simply lingering vestiges of the ' *Rapture* ' dogma promulgated by the apostate churches for centuries. The only material difference being, we do not subscribe to the direct passage to, (and residency in . . .) ' *Heaven* ' aspect.

Both ' theories ' [*Secret Return / Pre-Tribulation calling away*] are demonstrably inconsistent with the Lord's teaching in this parable. Speaking of the time of the final **Harvest** (*judgement at 'the end of the world'*) verse 30 states clearly, **the Wheat** and **the Tares** both ' *remain present and growing together* ' in **the Field** (in the World) up until the time of **the Harvest** (Armageddon). No-one is removed beforehand. Most revealing though, the Sower **THEN** commands **the Tares** (nations) to be gathered together " **first** " and tied into bundles to be burned (Armageddon) ' **BEFORE** ' any instruction or action is undertaken concerning the *removal or preservation* of **the Wheat** (Ecclesia) remaining in the field.

This sequence directly contradicts the *widely proclaimed* order in **Revelation 16 v15-16** which is the central pillar of the ' *Secret Return* ' of Christ theory. It is ' *frequently and mistakenly* ' claimed that, **FIRST** the Lord comes *secretly* (v15) " *as a thief* " **THEN** the nations are *gathered together* (v16) to Armageddon. This is **WRONG** and further underlines the deeply flawed *traditional* understanding (and application) of the phrases " *I come as a thief* " / " *The Day of the Lord* " which we extensively detail and explain in the linked document : " [The Return of the Lord . . . A Need for Bible Truth](#) ".

Further reinforcing this, the ' *identical sequence* ' is **repeated** yet again by the Lord (vs.41-43) in a second round of judgment that follows, this time being of **the rejected** being cast out from the presence of the Lord and the Kingdom :

- v 40 - “ **AS** therefore ... **the tares** (nations) are gathered and burned in the fire (Armageddon) ”
- v 41 - “ the Son of Man shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend and **them** which do iniquity ”
- v 42 - “ and **cast them** into a furnace of fire (‘ judgement ’) there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth ”
- v 43 - “ **THEN** ... shall **the righteous** shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom ... ”

It is evident , this prophetic parable detailing the events at ‘ **the end of the world** ’ provides no credible support at all to the idea that **the Wheat** (Ecclesia) are **ever** removed prior to **the Harvest** (ie. Armageddon ... ‘ judgement ’ by fire). More particularly , the scriptural context also indicates the very ‘ *same sequence* ’ is applied at both the judgment of the world (Armageddon) and later at the judgement of the household where *the ecclesial* ‘ *tares* ’ are cast out “ **first** ”.

Some may argue the parable’s only literal fulfilment was in the contemporaneous events of AD70. Is it *reasonable* to expect the parable then *leap-frogs* from AD70 all the way to the ‘ *judgment of the saints* ’ (vs.41-43) without first having application to the ‘ *judgment of the nations* ’ (Armageddon) ? Also, the phrases “ *weeping/wailing and gnashing of teeth* ” in scripture are ‘ *always* ’ used in the context of ‘ *the rejected* ’ at the judgment seat. It’s used ‘ *twice* ’ in this chapter (v42/v50) yet , pointedly is NOT used in the earlier verses (v.29-30) speaking of the ‘ *judgment of the nations* ’.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE : → 1) [The Return of the Lord . . . The need for Bible Truth](#)

A detailed study on the long-held doctrine of the ‘ **SECRET RETURN** ’ of the Lord Jesus Christ. Principally based upon two biblical phrases “ **I come as a thief** ” & “ **the Day of the Lord** ” we provide evidence proving **BOTH** are deeply misunderstood & misapplied

3. ‘ **The Saints** ’ fight alongside Christ at Armageddon

Yet another ‘ doctrinal myth ’ roundly debunked by this parable is the false notion that the ‘ *glorified saints* ’ fight with Christ against the Russian Gog at Armageddon. Even the simplest ‘ test of logic ’ from this parable proves this is not so. If , as the preceding points demonstrate , there is **NO** ‘ *Secret Return of Christ* ’ and therefore **NO** ‘ *Pre-Tribulation calling away* ’ of the saints when **the Harvest** (judgement / Armageddon) takes place , it stands to reason that having **NOT** been removed out of the world at this point , and certainly not having gone through the process of ‘ *judgment of the household* ’ and ‘ *glorification and immortalisation* ’ of *the accepted* , it is utterly implausible that the saints are involved in the battle against the Russian confederacy.

Once again (similar to the preceding two misconceptions) **NO WHERE** in scripture can it be shown or definitively proven that the ‘ *glorified saints* ’ fight alongside Christ at Armageddon. Consistently across scripture , the passages frequently and mistakenly used to support this idea of a ‘ *militant* ’ *Bride of Christ* at Armageddon on deeper investigation are in fact invariably speaking of ‘ **the angels** ’. [We openly invite anyone to prove otherwise.] However , even beyond this revelation , **the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares** actually offers far more ‘ *emphatic* ’ evidence in relation to the involvement of ‘ *the angels* ’. This evidence will be examined in Point # 4 (below).

BIBLE TRUTHS ‘ AFFIRMED ’

4. It is ‘ **the Angels** ’ who fight with Christ at Armageddon

“ **The reapers are the angels** ” . . . The Lord’s words here are clear and explicit. Do we actually ‘ *believe* ’ Him ??

Yes , we do understand and agree , the Lord most certainly did use the “ **reapers / angels** ” as a symbol for the Roman armies who would soon wreak terrible destruction at the end of that age (“ *world* ” - aion). There can be no denial of this at all. However , AD70 represented just one of several fulfilments of this prophetic parable. The events of AD70 were a foreshadowing of a ‘ *greater fulfilment* ’ to come , when *in the last days* God would again use a foreign power to execute His righteous judgments upon His people , preliminary to the final divine judgements upon the nations (world). **The ‘ principal ’ outworking of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (in its ultimate sense) was always , Armageddon.**

“ **The harvest is the end of the world , and the reapers are the angels** ” . . . Is it even possible to make an argument that this is not a direct reference to events in OUR time ?? If the Lord is speaking clearly but allegorically concerning these events (and He most certainly is) and He **expressly** states, it is ‘ **THE ANGELS** ’ who are “ **the reapers** ” appointed to execute His righteous judgements upon **the nations** (‘ *sheaves* ’) , how is it , that we have over the years managed to craft the mistaken expectation that it is ‘ *the Saints* ’ who are the *fellow combatants* with Christ at Armageddon ? We repeat , **NO WHERE** in scripture does it speak to the believers / saints having ANY involvement in the battle of Armageddon. Once again we see a ‘ *marked over-reach* ’ in our *inherited* traditional interpretation of end-time events that has , regrettably , created a ‘ false expectation ’ amongst *the faithful* which has persisted for generations.

To further illustrate this point , we use yet another simple ‘ *test of logic* ’ using this Parable. **FIRST**, verses 30-40 speak of the fiery judgments on the nations at Armageddon **THEN** verses 41-42 , 49-50 preview the *judgment of seat of Christ* that comes later. Do the ‘ **unworthy** ’ saints (those later rejected / cast out of the Kingdom) have the ‘ *honour and privilege* ’ of fighting with Christ (earlier) at Armageddon ? No , of course not. It would make NO SENSE and will NOT happen !! As the parable makes perfectly clear , it is ‘ **THE ANGELS** ’ who fight with Christ at Armageddon ... **NOT** the saints.

5. The Saints remain '*in the world*' during the Time of Trouble / Armageddon

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares provides a practical and easy to understand vision of the events surrounding Armageddon. As Verse 30 states, with the utmost clarity . . . "**BOTH** grow together (*in the field*) **UNTIL** the Harvest "

This may come as a shock to many (please do NOT switch off here) . . . but we will **NOT** be called away '*before*' the Time of Trouble and Armageddon. God's Word is **absolutely clear**, the saints / ecclesia will remain '*in the world*' through (most of) the final period of Great Tribulation. For generations, we have been taught and convinced that a 'Secret' Return of Christ will most assuredly bring a pre-emptive and privileged arm-chair ride out of the world, thereby providing an escape from the troubles to come. It is simply NOT TRUE . . . and it is inconsistent with what God's Word says on **MANY, MANY** occasions. As plainly stated in the preceding points (Pts. 1 to 4) quite astonishingly there is **NO** BIBLE PROOF whatsoever, to evidence or support the theory of an 'early exit' from the world for the saints in Christ. [Once again, we '*invite*' anyone to prove otherwise.] To further underscore the 'vast treasury' of bible evidence that repeatedly confirms the ecclesia **remains in the world** during the final tribulations, an additional document is supplied below ["**The Time of Trouble . . . We are here until The End**"] which comprehensively examines these scriptures.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE : → 2) "The Time of Trouble . . . We are here until The End**"**

Comprehensively catalogues and examines the '**extensive array**' of bible passages that **PROVE** beyond all doubt the Saints in Christ '**remain in the world**' amid the final Time of Trouble & further details the circumstances of '**the faithful**' during the final tribulations

So . . . **WHAT** actually happens to **the Wheat** **DURING** the period of **the Harvest** ? The answer, found in the verses that follow is not only clear, but immensely comforting and re-assuring for *the faithful* who are to **endure** through this time.

6. Saints are hidden and protected (ie. End-times "**PASSOVER**")

Finally for the Saints who will endure through the great tribulation of the last days, we come to the final consolation . . .

Vs. 30 " *And in the time of harvest I will say to 'the reapers' (angels),
gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them (Armageddon) :
But **gather the Wheat . . . into my barn** "*

While there will be . . . **NO** 'Secret' Return of Christ . . . and **NO** 'Pre-Tribulation' calling away of the saints prior to the Time of Trouble and Armageddon, the Lord is unmistakably clear in the **Parable of the Wheat and the Tares** that we will be both '**hidden**' and '**protected**' in an "**END-TIME PASSOVER**".

As the "**The Tares**" (*children of the wicked* ... ie. **the nations**) are gathered to be burned . . . **The Wheat** is gathered into the barn. **ALL** the ecclesia (*the faithful* and *unfaithful*) will be '**kept safe**' from the horrors in the world, '**preserved**' **UNTIL** the '*glorious*' return of the Lord. As described explicitly in Daniel 12v1 - " *At **that time** "* (when Christ stands upon the Mt. of Olives) the dead shall be '**raised**' and the living saints '**delivered**' from their '*hidden secret places*' (Isaiah 26v19-21 / Psalms 27v5 / Psalm 31v20 / Psalm 32v7 / Psalm 91v1) and together they will be called away to Sinai to await the judgment seat, while Christ and the angels go forth to destroy the Gogian host upon the mountains of Israel.

The concept of an end-time "**PASSOVER**" for the saints, should **NOT** come as a '*surprise*' to the followers of Christ. All the major old testaments accounts we know were **purposed specifically** to 'foreshadow' greater fulfilments down through history - and ultimately, to prefigure events in **the last days**. Among the '**greatest**' of these ancient accounts was Israel's deliverance from Egypt. Facilitated by the Divine Hand, through plagues and pestilences; through the '*miraculous*' **Passover** and the *Crossing over of the Red Sea*; and ultimately a passage into the '*Promised Land*', these epic events were a *prophetic blueprint* to the future, a guiding light in these times of darkness. A steadfast, immovable compass we can place our trust in. As we look '*in faith and hope*' to our own deliverance from this world (*Egypt*), this may be a final opportunity to '*test*' the foundations of our faith (*and **our expectations for the future***) solely and directly from God's Word. There is no substitute. Not the pioneer writings. Not esteemed speakers. Just the Word of God.

IN 2020, our whole planet is convulsing with trouble and distress. Global pandemics, nations in lockdown, many facing economic oblivion, biblical plagues worldwide, wars and rumours of wars, nations rising against nations, superpowers crumbling, rioting and violence, fear, perplexity, corruption and unrestrained immorality everywhere, it is undeniably clear, *the Time of Trouble* **has** already begun !! If we **REALLY BELIEVE** these misguided doctrines of a '**Secret**' Return of Christ and a '**PRE-Tribulation calling away**' we **MUST** ask ourselves . . . **WHY** are we still here ??

As we think upon the Lord's words in this remarkable parable, His vivid portrayal of events at "**the end of the world**" that will soon engulf all nations, we can see **the vision** is clear and **the order of events** precise and unassailable. We need to urgently re-examine the Lord's message and prepare for our own '*Passover*' and to endure faithfully to the end. Upon explaining the parable of the Wheat and the Tares to His beloved disciples, Jesus then quietly asked them . . . **Have ye UNDERSTOOD all these things?** . . . May it be (in time to come), we can *likewise* say to him, "**Yea, Lord**".