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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Sorting Out a Sea Catch

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE NINETEEN: Sorting Out a Sea Catch (Mt. 13:47-50)

SURVEY

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that is thrown into the water and gathers fish of every kind. When the net is full, they drag it onto the shore, sit down, sort out the good fish into crates and throw the bad ones away.

SIGNIFICANCE

- This parable contains the final of three contrasting entities as used by Jesus in explaining the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13.
 1. Fertile soil versus barren soil (Mt. 13:3-8)
 2. Tares versus wheat (Mt. 13:24-30)
 3. Good fish versus bad fish (Mt. 13:47-50)

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Angels are presented in this parable as special agents, assigned by God to eventually separate the saved from the unsaved. This truth is a recurring theme throughout the N.T. Note:

"The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity." (Mt. 13:39, 41)

"So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just." (Mt. 13:49)

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Mt. 24:31)

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." (Mt. 25:31-32)

"And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (Rev. 14:15-20)