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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Satan's Tares in the Savior's Soil

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE FOURTEEN: Satan's Tares in the Savior's Soil (Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

SURVEY

A farmer planted good seed in his field only to later discover his enemy had secretly sown poisoned weeds in that same field. When asked by his farm hands if they should pull out the weeds, the man replied:

"No, lest you uproot the wheat also. Let both grow until the harvest, at which time we will sort out both, burning the weeds and storing the wheat." (Matt. 13:29, 30)

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first parable to explain the why, when, who, and what regarding the Kingdom of Heaven.
 1. Why God allows tares in His field of wheat
 2. When God will remove those tares
 3. Who God will use in removing the tares
 4. What will happen to the tares

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- The three questions in regard to this parable:
 1. What are the tares? The Palestinian farmer called them "bearded darnel." In fact, they are a poisonous rye-grass plant, giving every appearance at the beginning to be regular wheat, until both plants reach maturity. Then the tares are easily recognized.
 2. Who (humanly speaking) are the real tares today? It can be said that they are not the ultra-liberals or scoffing agnostics, but rather those religious individuals who know the vocabulary and concepts of salvation, but who have in their hearts totally rejected the Christ of salvation.
 3. Where (humanly speaking) are the real tares today? For the most part they would not be found in the congregations of the cults, or among liberal assemblies. Rather these people have often succeeded in infiltrating the membership of Bible-believing churches.
- The nine metaphors in this parable:

1. The man is Christ.
 2. The enemy is the devil.
 3. The field is the world.
 4. The wheat is believers.
 5. The tares are unbelievers.
 6. The harvest is the end of the age.
 7. The reapers are angels.
 8. The granary is heaven.
 9. The furnace is hell.
- The six New Testament passages testifying to this parable:
 1. *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* (Mt. 7:15)
 2. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* (Mt. 7:21-23)
 3. *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."* (Acts 20:28-30)
 4. *"And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."* (2 Peter 2:2)
 5. *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Jude 4)
 6. *"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."* (Rev. 2:9)