



The Wheat and Tares: the Earthly Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

- 1) The human heart is akin to four types of soil (13:1-23)
 - a) Those that hear the gospel but do nothing with it
 - b) Those who joyfully hear the truth but later fall away
 - c) Those who accept the gospel but produce no fruit
 - d) Those who receive Christ and bear fruit
- 2) The present form of the kingdom of heaven includes all people (13:24-30, 36-40)
 - a) Those bearing Christian fruit who live and preach Christ's gospel
 - b) The emissaries of Satan who ignore or thwart the gospel
- 3) The future kingdom of heaven belongs only to God's people (13:41-43)
 - a) Christ's second advent brings an end to this "age"
 - b) Angels come with Christ to separate Christians from unbelievers
 - i) Unbelievers are gathered and judged
 - ii) Christians will shine as the sun in eternity
- 4) Observations/Applications
 - a) God "knew" His people from eternity past
 - b) God gives those He knows salvation at the appointed time
 - c) Believers are the fruit of someone else's labor; then we bear fruit!
 - d) God's people grow up alongside the sons of evil
 - e) There are some truly born of Satan (cf. John 8:38, 41, 44; 1 John 3:8-10, 12)
 - i) They cause others to "stumble"; doers of lawlessness
 - ii) God is their Creator, Satan is their father
 - iii) They sow satanic seeds of doubt, bearing rotten fruit
 - iv) Some look and act like God's people
 - v) They are exposed by their lifestyle
 - vi) Their ultimate fate is eternal death (2 Thess. 1:9)
 - f) Let us enter into "the house" where Jesus is and hear Him speak