



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The general theme of the parables of Jesus is **“the kingdom of heaven”**.
- As suggested by **Matthew 13:11**
- An illustrated with several parables, which all start with **“The kingdom of heaven is like...”**

- **Matthew 13:24** (KJV)

- **The kingdom
of heaven
is likened unto a man
which sowed good
seed in his field:**

- **Matthew 13:44** (KJV)

**the kingdom of heaven
is like**

unto treasure hid in a field;

- **Matthew 13:45** (KJV)

**the kingdom of heaven
is like unto**

a merchant man,

seeking goodly pearls

- **Matthew 13:47** (KJV)

**The kingdom of heaven
is like unto a net,
that was cast
into the sea,
and gathered
of every kind:**

- Our Lord had a **message** to get out so he:
 - Taught **in the open air,**
 - In the village **streets,** and on the **roads,**
 - By the **lake-side,**
- And in peoples own **homes.**

- As Jesus taught it was necessary that people remember his teaching so his teaching method would guarantee that.
- The parable always makes truth concrete.

- There are very few people who can grasp and understand abstract ideas;
- Most people think in pictures.

- We could try to put into words
what beauty is,
and at the end of it
no one would be the wiser;
- But if we can point at someone
and say,
"That is a beautiful sunset,"
no description is needed.

- We might try to define goodness and in the end leave no clear idea of goodness in people's minds;
- But everyone recognizes a good person and good deeds.

- In order to be understood,
every great word
must become flesh,
- Every great idea must take
form and shape
in a person's mind;
- So the first great quality
of a parable is that
it makes truth into a picture
which all can see and understand.

- All great teaching begins from the here and now and gets us to the then and there.

- The parable opens ones mind and eyes by beginning from where he is and leading him on to where he ought to be.
 - Jesus was master in doing that.

- The parable has the great virtue that it **enables** and **compels** us to discover truth for ourselves.
 - **It does not do** a man's thinking for him.

- It says,
Here is a story.
- What is the truth in it?
 - What does it mean for you?
- Think it out for yourself'.

- **Philippians 2:12**
**Work out your
own salvation
with
fear and trembling.**

- There are some things which a man **cannot be told;**
- He must discover them **for himself.**
- You can only put him into a position in which **he can discover it for himself.**

- Unless we discover truth for ourselves, **it remains a second-hand truth.**

- Unless we discover truth for ourselves, **we will forget it quickly.**

- The parable compels a man **to draw his own conclusions.**

The other side of the coin
is that the parable

conceals truth

from those who are either

too lazy to think

or

too blinded by prejudice

to see.

- It must be remembered that the parable, as Jesus used it, was spoken; it was not read.
 - Its impact had to be immediate.

- It made truth flash upon a man as the lightning suddenly illuminates a pitch-dark night.

- In our study of the parables that means two things for us.

- First, we must think and study and imagine ourselves back into the minds of those who were listening to Jesus.
- So that the parable will strike us as it did those who heard it for the first time.

- Second,
generally speaking
a parable will have
only one point.
- A parable is
not an allegory;
- An allegory is a story
in which every possible detail
has an inner meaning.

- The allegory
has to be read and studied;

- A parable
is heard.

- Remember that parables
were designed
to make one stabbing truth
flash out at a man
the moment he heard it.

- Many of the parables start with **“The kingdom of heaven is like...”**
(Matthew 13:24)
 - In explaining why He spoke in parables, Jesus made reference to **“the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”**
(Matthew 13:11)

- We also noted that **“the kingdom of heaven”** was the theme of His **sermon on the mount.** (Matthew 5:3)

- Because **“the kingdom of heaven”** **is such a prominent subject** **in the parables of Jesus** (as well as His overall preaching)...

- **What** does **“the kingdom of heaven”** mean:

- Let's begin by defining **“the kingdom of heaven”** by comparing it with **“the kingdom of God”**
 - **Our first question**
IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?
- **Some try to make a distinction**
(Scofield Reference Bible, etc.)
 - But a quick comparison of the gospels indicate **that the terms refer to the same thing**

- Since Matthew wrote his gospel to the Jews, he chose to use the phrase “kingdom of heaven”.
- While the other gospel writers used the phrase “kingdom of God”

- The expression
“heaven”
(literally, **“heavens”**)
would emphasize
a spiritual kingdom
- Let’s now consider what
Jesus meant when
He spoke of the
“kingdom of heaven”.

- The term “kingdom” as used by the Jews often stressed the abstract idea of “reign” or dominion,”
- Not some geographical area surrounded by physical boundaries.

- Used this way by Jesus in Luke 17:21 (KJV)
- **Neither shall they say,
Lo here! or, lo there!
for, behold,
the kingdom of God
is within you.**

- Thus, the
“kingdom of heaven”

or

“kingdom of God)

is wherever the

REIGN

or

DOMINION of God

(who is in heaven)

is manifested.

- In one sense,
the kingdom of God
has always existed.
- Psalms 103:19 (KJV)
- The LORD hath prepared his
throne in the heavens; and
his kingdom rules over all.
 - But in a special way
the reign of God was to be
manifested
with the coming of Christ.

- As foretold in the time of Daniel (500 B.C.)

- Daniel 2:44 (KJV)

- **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

- As proclaimed by John the Baptist

- Matthew 3:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

- 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

- As preached by Jesus
- Mark 1:14-15 (KJV)
- 14 Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
 - 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

- **It is in the Person
of Jesus Christ**

that the

“reign of God”

**is being expressly
manifest today.**

- **1 Corinthians 15:24-26**
(KJV)

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- **24** Then cometh the end,
when he shall have delivered up
the kingdom to God,
to the Father;
when he shall have put down
all rule and all authority and power.

- **25** For he must **reign,**
till he hath put all enemies
under his feet.

- **26** The last enemy that
shall be destroyed is death.

- It is spiritual in nature.
 - The kingdom (or reign of God) would not be found in the form of a physical kingdom
 - John 18:36 (KJV)
- My kingdom is not of this world:
if my kingdom were of this world,
then would my servants fight...

- But it would manifest itself in spiritual ways.
- Romans 14:17 (KJV)
- For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

- Visibly manifested
in the lord's church.
- What is the Lord's church?
 - It is a kingdom of souls
 - In whose hearts
God is recognized
as Sovereign King.
 - Thus the church
equals
the kingdom of God.

- **“church”** and **“kingdom”**
can be used interchangeably.
- **Matthew 16:18-19** (KJV)
- **18** And I say also unto thee,
That thou art Peter, and upon
this rock I will build my **church**;
- **19** And I will give unto thee the
keys of the **kingdom of heaven**:

- Paul to the church:
- Colossians 1:13 (KJV)
- Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12 (KJV)
- That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

- The “kingdom of heaven”
has a future element
as well as
a present one
- Its future aspect is spoken of by Jesus.
- Matthew 25:34 (KJV)

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- **Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

- **The kingdom's future aspect**
is spoken of by Paul :
 - **2 Timothy 4:18** (KJV)
- **And the Lord shall deliver me
from every evil work,
and will preserve me unto
his heavenly kingdom:
to whom be glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

- Let us summarize
”**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**”

- IN THE
“**PRESENT**”
SENSE...

- It is found wherever the
SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
is accepted
in the hearts of men.

- It is a **SPIRITUAL KINGDOM**,
for God rules in the hearts of men
- Its outward manifestation today
is the **LORD'S CHURCH**
 - The kingdom was
“**INAUGURATED**”
on the Day of Pentecost
in Acts 2

- IN THE “**FUTURE**” SENSE..

- The kingdom will be
“**CULMINATED**”

with the coming of the Lord

- When Jesus

“**delivers the kingdom
to God the Father**”

(**1 Corinthians 15:24**)

- “**Then the righteous will shine forth
as the sun in the
kingdom of their Father.**”
(**Matthew 13:43**)

CONCLUSION

1. As we get into the parables, there will be many references to the

“kingdom of heaven”

- Sometimes it appears Jesus refers to the

“present”

aspect of the kingdom

- But then, at other times He has reference to the

“future”

aspect of the kingdom

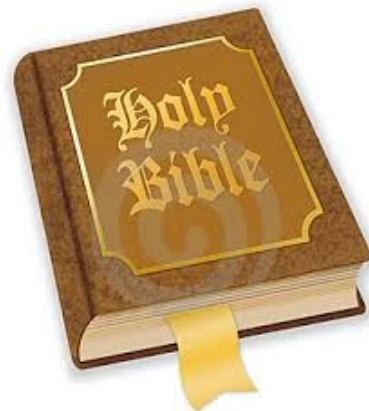
. Hopefully, this effort
to define the
“kingdom of heaven”
will help us appreciate
more what Jesus has
to say concerning
“the mysteries of
the kingdom of heaven”!

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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