



Title: Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven Parables (part 1) – Parabolic Instructions

Text: Matt. 13:1-3ff

1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables,

Introduction:

1. In Matt. 11 – the nation (people) of Israel rejected the King (The Lord Jesus) and His herald (John the Baptist). In Matt. 12 – the religio-political leadership of Israel opposed the King. And so now in Matt. 13, the Lord shifts His teaching/preaching method from using parables as in illustration of truth to using parables as a means of instruction or method of conveying truth.
2. The word “parable” (παραβολή - *parabolḗ*) noun, meaning “placing beside” or a comparison or a similitude or side by side comparison. It is a story (most likely fictitious) with a truth meaning or meanings tucked in figure(s). It may be an extended simile.

I. **The Concept by which the Lord Used Parabolic Instructions.** (13:11-18)

- A. To reveal truth about the Kingdom of Heaven to the believers. (cf. Matt. 11:25-26)
- B. To conceal truth about the Kingdom of Heaven to the unbelievers. (vv.11-15)
- C. Since He was rejected, He imposes the principle/precept of Matt. 7:6 – not casting pearls before swine.

II. **The Context of the Lord’s Use of Parabolic Instructions.** (vv.13-14)

- A. Israel’s rejection and the Lord’s new methodology of parabolic instruction fulfills Isa. 6:9-10.
- B. Parabolic instruction spoken to the multitudes (13:1-35)
- C. Parabolic instruction spoken to the disciples (13:36-53)
- D. The Lord Parabolic Instructions (v.35) also fulfills Ps. 78. This Asaphic Psalm highlights Israel’s rebellion against the LORD and the LORD’s mercy on a rebellious people.

III. **The Content of the Lord’s Parabolic Instructions.**

- A. The parables of the Kingdom of Heaven are called “mysteries.”
- B. A New Testament mystery is a truth previously hidden but is now revealed. (Col. 1:26)
- C. The Lord Jesus revealed the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven Parables.
- D. The Apostle Paul & John revealed further mysteries in the New Testament.
- E. 15 Mysteries Total in the New Testament. (*see below, A Listing of the NT Mysteries...*)
- F. Matt. 13 contains the 8 parables which composes “the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.”
- G. The mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven parables represent the time span between the rejection of Israel until the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

IV. **The Interpretation of the Parabolic Instructions.**

- A. The Lord revealed new truths to the His disciples concerning the timing of the Kingdom of Heaven or the postponement of the Kingdom which was NOT revealed in Daniel’s 70th Week prophecy or any other Old Testament prophecy.
- B. The Lord explains two of the eight parables of ch. 13. (The Sower & Seed Parable and the Wheat & the Tares Parable).

Conclusion:

1. Since Israel (her people and her leaders) rejected the King. The King adapted a new instructional method fulfilling the Scriptures.
2. The Lord adds or reveals new truth relative to the Kingdom of Heaven (timing of its establishment and the current status of Israel and the world and believers/disciples).

A Listing of the 15 New Testament Mysteries:

- 1) The Lord Jesus revealed... The Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven in Parables (Matt. 13; Mk. 4:11; Lk. 8:10ff).

- 2) The Apostle Paul's Mysteries:
 - i. The Mystery of Israel's Blindness (Rom. 11:25)
 - ii. The Mystery of the Gospel (Rom. 16:25; Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3)
 - iii. The Mystery of God's Wisdom (1 Cor. 2:7-8)
 - iv. The Mystery of the Changed Body (1 Cor. 15:51)
 - v. The Mystery of God's Will (Eph. 1:9)
 - vi. The Mystery of the Fellowship of Jewish and Gentile Believers in One Body (Eph. 3:3, 9) – fulfilled in the church (the body of Christ)
 - vii. The Mystery of Christ in you the Hope of Glory (Col. 1:26-27)
 - viii. The Mystery of God, and of The Father, and of the Son (Col. 2:2-3)
 - ix. The Mystery of Iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7)
 - x. The Mystery of the Faith (1 Tim. 3:9)
 - xi. The Mystery of Godliness (1 Tim. 3:16)

- 3) The Apostle John's Mysteries:
 - i. The Mystery of the Seven Stars and Golden Candlesticks (Rev. 1:20)
 - ii. The Mystery of God (Rev. 10:7)
 - iii. The Mystery of Babylon (Rev. 17:5)