

THE PARABLE OF THE TARES AND THE WHEAT

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Introduction

The world is God's field (v.24). The "earth is the Lord's"- The earth is the sphere of human habitation in the world God loved (John 3:16). How about UFO's?

Message

What do we find in God's field?

I. Two Sowers \

1. *The Householder (13:24)*- 'man' revealed is the 'householder' (v.27) as the Son of Man (v.37). The sower here is the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. *The Other Sower*. "His enemy" (v.25), "an enemy" (v.28), the "wicked one" (v. 38), "the devil" (v.39)
God and the devil are always opposed to one another (the good and the evil).
It is a trinity:
The Devil- the Father- (I John 2:15-16)
The Beast- the Spirit- the flesh (Galatians 5:17)
The Anti-Christ- Jesus Christ- the Satan (Genesis 3:15)

II. Two Products-

1. *The tares*- good for nothing- it can be people (v.38) or attitudes. Fleshly wisdom, pride, all sins. People can go to church, pray, read the Bible but Christless.
2. *The wheat (v.38a)*- the product of that precious Word received, understood and obeyed. We are to produce wheat also.

III. Two Questions (vs. 27-28)- with two definite answers (vs.28a, 30a)

IV. Two Harvests (v.30)- there seem to be some gatherings and bindings today even before the harvest (communism, ecumenism, commercialism- Charismatic movements)

1. The destruction of the tares (vs. 40-42, Acts 17:31). The Final judgement: the great white throne (Revelations 20:10-15)
2. The gathering of the wheat to God's barn (vs.30; 43)
- I Thessalonians 4:15-17, John 14:1-3, Matthew 24:30-31

- The rapture of the saints (I Thessalonians 4:15-17)
- God's barn is God's Kingdom (John 14:1-3)
- The wheat is God's elect (Matthew 24:30-31)
- The righteous who will shine (v.430)
- Exalted and blessed (Matthew 25:34)
- Called to God's eternal glory in Christ (I Peter 5:10)

But the wheat, the righteous must first suffer and be tried as we live for Him today (Acts 14:22, II Timothy 2:12). Win souls (the tares) that we may turn them into righteousness (Daniel 12:3).

In our personal lives, we should also reach the field of our hearts to discover whether the enemy has sown any tares in there. The more the Lord has of our heart, the less the devil will have (Luke 22:31).

