



MATTHEW 13 - The Kingdom of the Heavens Parables.

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Ever since being born-from-Above at age 13, the Kingdom of the Heavens Parables of Matthew 13 have interested me. Therefore, it is time to study them thoroughly again and put down my research on paper to share with others. Also over the years I have heard and read many different understandings about them, probably interpreted based on the theological perspective or doctrinal position of the writer. This may tend to force an interpretation to fit, especially if the writer believes his church replaced Israel! To me, that is not the way to handle the Bible! If a Bible text does not seem to "fit" your theological system, leave it until later! I do not have a "theological system" but lay out the facts as I discover them. I also use various Versions to get the one that says it best and most correctly based on my research in the Greek text. Therefore, I am using kingdom of the heavens as this is what the Greek says rather than kingdom of heaven. We all want the Truth, right??!! I do, anyway!!!!

Matthew begins this series of parables as follows: **Matthew 13:1-9.** *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."*

Before we go further we need to notice where and how Yeshua does his public teaching and where apparently He does his private, more intimate teaching for His disciples. In verse 1 it says, *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.* Then notice later in **Matthew 13:34-36.** *Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the crowds, and He did not speak to them without a parable, so that was fulfilled that spoken through the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will speak out things hidden from the foundation of the world." Psalm. 78:2. Then sending away the crowds, Jesus came into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, Explain to us the parable of the darnel of the field.*

This "teaching only in parables to the crowds" needs to be researched throughout the Gospels at some other time but for now, Yeshua teaches publicly outside wherever He is at the time and only by parables, and He teaches more intimately and more plainly to explain things to His disciples when in a house wherever He is at the time, except probably when He took His disciples up North to Banias (in Cesarea Philippi) for an

R&R (rest and recuperation) vacation. Banias is a beautiful area where the Jordan River begins, surfacing from underground, before it gets to Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). Banias was "Panias," the grotto where the pagan god Pan was worshipped during Roman times after Yeshua, with evidence carved into the stone walls.

We should also notice that three parables, The Hidden Treasure, The Pearl of Great Price and the Dragnet were taught in the house to the disciples, not outside publicly. After these He asks His disciples in verse **:51**, *Jesus said to them, Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Yes, Lord.* So on the basis of what Yeshua taught, His explanations and Method of interpretation, we too should be able to understand all these Parables, right??

It is said that parables are simple stories so that children can understand. Not so for Bible parables!! The dictionary says, "a short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle." Again, not so for Yeshua's parables! After teaching the multitude the first parable on the Sower, in **Matthew 13:10**, *the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"* This indicates to me that Yeshua's parables were too difficult, that His disciples would prefer that He spoke more simply, as they did not understand His parable either.

The logistics of this interaction is hard to visualize since Yeshua was sitting in a boat offshore while the crowd, and we assume the disciples, all sat on the shore and hillside. It does not say the disciples got into the boat with him, although that is a possibility. How could Yeshua have this private conversation with His disciples without the crowd listening in? Maybe Yeshua finished teaching the first four parables, Soils, Darnel, Mustard Seed and Leaven, and then went back into the house and only then the disciples began their questioning. However, Matthew wrote as the Lord guided him, many years after being an eyewitness.

Yeshua always has a reason for what He does and in this case it is amazing!! **Matthew 13:11**. *And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.* Understanding has to be given, the same truth that we learn in **Matthew 16:17**. *And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. We study and study which is a necessary prerequisite but ultimately, truth will be revealed to the diligent insider.*

So we see a separation but for what reason? Is there prejudice with Yeshua? No, that could never be, for Yeshua is perfectly just and fair. He states His reason in **Matthew 13:12-13**. *For to the one who has (faith, trust even as small as a mustard seed), more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has (curiosity maybe but not true faith) will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*

Why doesn't Yeshua try to help them understand? Again, He has good reasons, which can be a warning to every person who reads the Gospels. **Matthew 13:14-15**. *Indeed, in*

their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. This shows clearly that every person has a free or independent will to choose what to hear, what to see and what to believe, and must accept the consequences of their choices without knowing or fully realizing what the consequences will be.

Matthew 13:16-17. *But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it (in person!) ...but these ancient people still believed the Messiah was coming and that He would do and say what Yeshua was now doing and teaching!! At this point the disciples were not seeing and hearing very well but they trusted Yeshua and wanted to understand and therefore asked for help; their hearts were open as we must be. Yeshua then explained to the disciples the first parable.*

Matthew 13:18-23. *Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it (because he has closed his eyes and his heart is dull), the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself (curiosity but not true faith) but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word (the Word of God is not precious to him), immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches (his priority choices) choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.*

Some might conclude that only one in four or 25% of those who hear the Word preached or taught will believe and bear fruit. That is a nice guess but current facts do not back it up. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association did a follow up survey of those who had made decisions at their Campaigns and found that after 6 months, only about 6% were continuing on, not anywhere near 25%. In 1974, I was very involved in one of these campaigns in Baguio City, Philippines. In my opinion, the Billy Graham campaigns have a good effect to get the attention of the media and the public but since they are Ecumenical, the inherent weakness is the follow-up which is done by the church of their choice, most of which do not teach the same Gospel Truth, especially the Catholics. New "baby believers" must become disciples, not just converts who profess. They need lots of tender loving care, daily interaction with a maturing true believer which in time will reveal what type of "soil" heard and responded. Campaigns sow a lot of seed but to be born-from-Above is always the work of the Spirit, and if that occurs there will be hunger for more of the Word and growth will become obvious.

Regarding the first three soils, consider this: **2 Corinthians 4:3-4.** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the*

minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Now for the second parable in Matthew's sequence, I am quoting the Literal Version since the ESV and others use "weeds" instead of the "tares" in the KJV. Tares is better than weeds, but the LITV uses "darnel," which is correct!! As you will notice, what the enemy sowed was a counterfeit wheat, which is darnel, hard to detect until harvest, while weeds would be obvious from the beginning.

Matthew 13:24-30. *He put before them another parable, saying: The kingdom of Heaven is compared to a man sowing good seed in his fields. But while the men were sleeping, one hostile to him came and sowed darnel in the midst of the wheat, and went away. And when the blade sprouted and produced fruit, then the darnel also appeared. And coming near, the slaves (doulos, literally slaves but usually translated as servants) of the housemaster said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then from where does it have the darnel? And he said to them, A man, an enemy did this. And the slaves said to him, Do you desire, then, that going out we should gather them? But he said, No, lest gathering the darnel you should uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest. And in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather the darnel, and bind them into bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my granary.*

Matthew goes on to more parables but first we need Yeshua's explanation of this parable of the good seed and the darnel, staying with the LITV. **Matthew 13:36-43.** *Then sending away the crowds, Jesus came into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, Explain to us the parable of the darnel of the field. (They still needed help as we do, also!) And answering, He said to them, The One sowing the good seed is the Son of Man (Yeshua). And the field is the world (kosmos); and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; but the darnel are the sons of the evil one. And the hostile one who sowed them is the Devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the angels are the reapers. Then as the darnel is gathered and is consumed in the fire, so it will be in the completion of this age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all the offenses, and those who practice lawlessness (anti- or no Torah). And they will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth. Then the righteous will shine out like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one having ears to hear, let him hear.*

This parable tells us a lot about our future - hopefully all of you reading this are part of the good seed, the righteous sons of the kingdom!! Realize also how important it is to use "darnel - counterfeit wheat" rather than weeds! Ordinary weeds would be obvious, not be any where near being "counterfeit wheat." "Weeds" would be those who do not profess to be believers in Yeshua, secular people and those of Hinduism, Buddhism etc. so they would be obvious to us. On the other hand, darnel would be those professing or pretending to be believers in Yeshua, "born again" maybe but not born-from-Above, and living among us in our congregations, even members and sometimes even pastors and other leaders!! Consider the following description of darnel:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15. *For such ones are false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And did not Satan marvelously transform himself into an angel of light? It is not a great thing, then, if also his ministers transform themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.* This is why discernment is so important, especially for all leaders!!

At this point, since Yeshua did not define it, we need to come to a conclusion about the meaning of "the kingdom of the heavens." In this parable, both wheat and darnel exist together until the End of the Age at which time everything included in darnel is burned up, the kingdom is purified and *the righteous will shine out like the sun in the kingdom of their Father*. Therefore, there is a present day kingdom in which evil is present and a future kingdom in which evil is absent. I also see in our present day *kosmos* or world system three categories of people: 1) Born-from-Above Believers in Yeshua, Jew and Gentile; 2) counterfeit "believers" in Yeshua plus those who claim to believe in God and follow the Bible, like many Jews, but are not genuine, making up the complete darnel; and 3) all others on earth who follow other religions and do not acknowledge Yeshua or the Bible. Therefore, the kingdom of the heavens now includes 1) and 2), but not 3).

In all 66 Books I have found many figurative uses of words, like visions of the Prophets, and of course parables are full of them. **Definition:** I conclude that once a word is used figuratively, with a clear literal meaning in the text or context, to me **that meaning** is to be **used consistently** throughout all 66 Books of the Bible unless context clearly indicates a difference, which will be rare. For instance, when God tells Daniel that the "bear" is the symbol for Persia, then in Revelation the "bear" is still Persia, not Russia just because Russia uses the bear as their symbol today. If we do not stick to this consistency then the Bible can be made to say anything, and we deceive ourselves. The Bible must be allowed to interpret itself.

So let us now list the literal meanings of the figurative words in these two parables, told and explained by Yeshua, so that we can use these meanings to help us understand the other parables, just as the disciples must have done.

In the first parable: the **sower** is not identified so he could be any of us as we teach and witness to others, but ultimately it is **the Holy Spirit** working thru us that puts the Truth into the hearts of the hearers. That which was sown was the **Word of the Kingdom**; the **birds** are the wicked one or **satan**; the **heart** of the hearer is represented by 4 kinds of surface or soil upon which the Word impinges and the 4 kinds of responses - the **wayside** or pathway represents a **hardened heart** not interested in spiritual truth, the **stony places** represent a **superficial response** more interested in this *kosmos* and in being accepted in society, the **thorns** represent a heart more concerned with **the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches**, while the **good soil** represents the **heart prepared** to understand, accept and bear fruit. The **fruit** is not identified so it could be more disciples or maybe the fruit of the Spirit, or something else. Keep these in mind!!

In the second parable: the **man** who is the **sower** is identified as the **Son of man** who we know as **Yeshua** (this **man** = Yeshua will be very important in the other parables!);

the **field** is the **world** which in Greek is *kosmos* or the world system, the cultures that we live in, not the planet earth; the **good seed** that was sown are the **sons of the kingdom**; the **darnel** are the **sons of the evil one** (counterfeits); the **hostile one** who sowed the darnel is **the devil**; the **harvest** is **the end of the age**; and the **reapers** are **the angels**.

Since these words or phrases, when used figuratively are defined by Yeshua as to their literal meaning, we will use them consistently throughout the Bible unless context indicates otherwise, such as the slight difference in the meaning of "the sower" in these two parables. "Let the Bible interpret itself" is a common saying but when people do not follow this principle and use their imagination, then all kinds of strange interpretations are taught which may lead people astray from God's Truth!!!

Now we progress to the other parables that Yeshua taught to see if we can come to the proper meaning for each one by following the principle we have stated. We believe there is **one and only one meaning** for each passage in the Bible. To believe otherwise is to accuse God of "double talk," or trying to confuse us. Once we have discovered the one meaning in the mind of God, then and only then can we possibly make an application of the Truth taught for our lives today. The problem that I notice is that there are many applications today but without a meaning to base it upon and therefore the application is not necessarily true. My Volume 2 is full of documents that give meanings!! Applications are then up to you and His Spirit.

The next parable in Matthew's sequence is about the **mustard seed**. Comparing versions, I think the ESV is ok here. **Matthew 13:31-32**. *He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*

We now know what the kingdom of the heavens is at this time, a mixture of true Believers and counterfeits. This parable seems to indicate the beginning of this kingdom and its growth over time. The **man** who is the **sower** must be Yeshua to be consistent with His earlier definition. The **field** must be the world system or *kosmos* based on the parable of wheat and darnel, so the mustard seed is planted within the field or *kosmos* but not including all of it. As it grows it becomes larger than other plants and is classified as a shrub or bush but does not become a tree as verified by biology. However, in this parable, the mustard seed does eventually become a tree (something significant!) and the **birds** make their nests in its branches, taking it over so to speak. From Yeshua's parable of the Soils, we know that "birds" represent satan or the wicked one. Yeshua did not define a tree in any of His parables except to contrast a good tree yielding good fruit versus a corrupt tree yielding bad fruit so that we will know people by their fruit, therefore tree = people in that comparison, which will not fit here as birds do not nest on people. Another possibility might be Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4.

Daniel 4:19-22. *Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth, whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth.*

Nebuchadnezzar **and his kingdom** of Babylon are symbolized by a huge **tree** providing food for all, shade for animals and **branches for birds**. After searching thru my Concordance for the many times trees are used literally and figuratively, the **mustard tree** must represent the kingdom of the heavens in its **final state** as an **empire or kingdom** within the world system that has been **infiltrated by satan** and his wicked ones, represented by the **birds**.

The kingdom of the heavens therefore begins with Abraham, the first mustard seed, expands with Isaac, then Jacob and his 13 Tribes who multiply into several million people while in Egypt. Out of Egypt, the kingdom of the heavens becomes or at least includes the **Congregation of YHVH**, the *Kahal* that translates to *Ekklesia* in the LXX and Newer Testament, that continues on to the time of Yeshua's Return. All along the way, satan is infiltrating his **birds** such that at the time of Roman Emperor Constantine in CE 325, the kingdom of the heavens **becomes a mustard tree**, harboring all kinds of evil along with God's Truth. This is the beginning of the Roman Catholic **Church** and the Vatican's worldwide **empire**, with its obvious antisemitism and rejection of the Tanakh, based on Constantine's Letter to the churches after the Council at Nice in 325. Find it and read it!!! You will be shocked!

The Vatican is the political part with its Papal Nuncios - Ambassadors - and Embassies and the Church is the religious part of this kingdom or empire. It is well described as a **part** of the prostitute in **Revelation 17:1-2**. *And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sits upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*

Notice that each parable gives **one aspect** of the kingdom of the heavens such that to get a complete picture, all of them need to be taken together. The **Soils** taught us the various responses to God's messages, the **Wheat & Darnel** taught the two components of His Kingdom, the **Mustard Seed** taught how His Kingdom began, how it grew and how it ended up, and now the **Leaven** will teach us how evil entered and took over.

Matthew 13:33. *He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."*

The key words are underlined. Now we have to find each one defined or a usage that indicates what is intended by the figurative use. For leaven we begin at the original Passover in **Exodus 12:15**. *Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.... :19-20. For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner (ger) or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.*

Before going on with "leaven," please notice in :19 that the "sojourner" or ger in Hebrew is already part of the congregation of Israel! In case this fact is new to you, the ger is a special kind of non-Jew or a Gentile who has accepted God's Torah and way of living as a Gentile. There is no conversion process in the Tanakh, or in the NT, so this Gentile does not become a Jew but has a very similar status and is treated equally. There are other Hebrew words for other kinds of Gentiles not acceptable for the Kahal, the congregation of Israel. For more, see my Chapter 37 on "Gentiles" in Volume 2 of the **According to Roger** series.

Celebrating Passover is a holy experience and therefore everything not holy must be removed which is symbolized by leaven or yeast or any product that contains it. Chemically leaven is a corrupting agent, an enzyme that breaks down starch into carbon dioxide (CO2) plus water and other byproducts of no concern to the baker, who uses the CO2 to raise his dough to the proper level and then bakes it, killing the leaven, resulting in a pleasing, light bread product. If left to its conclusion and not baked, the dough is destroyed. However, a small lump is kept in reserve for the next batch which is known as sour dough.

Throughout Scripture, leaven is used as a figure for evil. **Matthew 16:6**. *Jesus said to them, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 16:12. Then they understood that he did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. **Mark 8:15**. And he cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." **Luke 12:1**. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**. *Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

Now for "a woman took and hid (the leaven) in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened." "Woman" is easy. Some people might like to take it as a person, not necessarily a woman, but we will not do that as it is essential to be exact. We need to look somewhere in the Bible for "three measures of flour," not four or two but exactly three. There is only one place to find that. **Genesis 18:1-2**. *And the LORD appeared to him (Abraham) by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. 18:6. And*

*Abraham ran into the tent to Sarah and said, Hurry, prepare **three measures** of **fine meal**, knead it and make cakes.*

So far so good! Three measures is enough flour to feed 3 men and notice that it is fine meal, pure or kosher with no leaven. Whether or not Sarah added leaven is not mentioned but I doubt she had time for the dough to rise and therefore it was probably unleavened bread that the 3 men ate. Sarah is not "the woman" in this parable because if she added leaven it would be literal while in the parable the leaven is figurative for evil, so who is this woman?

The kingdom of the heavens begins with Abraham so the figurative use of the three measurers might refer to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the fine meal, pure with no leaven by the grace of God. However, something happened during Jacob's time. Please read the whole chapters to get the context as I can only print the essential information. **Genesis 31:34.** *Now **Rachel** had taken the **household gods** and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them. The household gods were like the Title Deed to certain properties, in this case Laban's, which is why he wanted them so badly. Rachel took them as inheritance since she and Leah considered that their father had sold them and left them with nothing, not that Rachel worshiped these gods.*

Genesis 35:1-4. *God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away **the foreign gods** that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." So they gave to Jacob all **the foreign gods** that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.*

Foreign gods or idols had come into Jacob's family and household, but now Jacob is told to build an altar to the true God that he swore allegiance to and therefore he knew he had to purify his whole household, family and servants, before he could face God and worship Him. Notice that godly leadership by the patriarch is essential to live in harmony with God.

So for our parable, Rachel is "the woman" who hid the leaven in the 3 measures of fine meal, the Patriarchs. From that time onward, leaven persisted in Israel "until the whole was leavened" and judgment came upon Israel twice to destroy their beautiful Temples in Jerusalem, slaughter many of the people and enslave the rest.

The next parable in Matthew's sequence is the **Treasure** found in **Matthew 13:44.** *The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a **field**, which a **man** found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that **field**.*

There are a lot of literal uses of treasure in the Bible, but there is one figurative use that I think is what Yeshua meant in this parable. It is segulah, the Hebrew word for Israel as God met them at Mt Sinai in **Exodus 19:5.** *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my*

voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession (segulah) among all peoples, for all the earth is mine.

God reminds them of this several times so they will not forget to act the part or live up to this choice as His **segulah**, His Chosen People. **Deuteronomy 14:2**. *For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. **26:18**. And the LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments. **Psalm 135:4**. For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.*

The "man" in this parable, as in the others, I take to be Yeshua Himself, who found this Treasure as it began with Abraham (not to indicate any salvation by works as all humans are filthy rags compared to His righteousness!!!) and grew into the Israel of several million by the time He faced them at Mt Sinai and offered to them the "chosen people" status. The "field" again is the *kosmos* or world system in which Israel is "hidden," because most people do not know that Israel is God's segulah and those who do know, persecute Israel in their jealous hatred, except for us who love Israel and share with them in God's Good Olive Tree.

For "in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field," we think of course of Yeshua in **Hebrews 12:2**. *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross (paid the price), despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **1 Peter 1:18-20**. knowing that not with corruptible things, silver or gold, were you redeemed from your worthless way of life (world system or *kosmos*) handed down from your fathers, but with precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot, indeed having been foreknown before the foundation of the world (*kosmos*), but revealed in the last times because of you.*

There is interesting truth here that even though I conclude that the Treasure begins with Abraham, this Treasure/segulah was decided upon before Creation as well as the price to be paid for it!!! However, this parable and the whole Bible is written for human consumption and therefore has a time line factor to which God is not limited.

The next parable is the **Pearl of Great Price** found in **Matthew 13:45-46**. *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

Beginning with "again," might indicate that this parable is similar to the Treasure one so that we might be tempted to just say that it is the same and let it go at that, but we cannot, because we must find out what "pearl" represents as pearl is a different word and therefore has to have a different meaning! In the Tanakh there is only one use of pearl, the word gabish, found in **Job 28:18**. *No mention shall be made of coral, or of pearls: for the price of wisdom is above rubies.* However, there is controversy over what gabish really means so here is the LITV: *Coral and rock crystal cannot be mentioned; yea, the getting of wisdom is above jewels.* So with this situation we can forget about finding any

definition of "pearl" in the Tanakh and will have to do our best in the Newer Testament, where "pearl" occurs 9 times, 3 literal.

One figurative use that might be useful is in **Matthew 7:6**. *Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.* In this verse it seems that pearls can be equated with something "holy," which is not to be given to unholy entities, which we can assume are unholy or wicked people, called dogs and pigs. So if "pearls" are something holy, the only holy thing I can think of is the Bible, so the message might be to not bother telling Bible truth to wicked people who are probably condemned already. It will just make them angry at us and attack us but this is not good enough for our parable.

The only other figurative use of pearl is in the New Jerusalem in **Revelation 21:12, 21**. *It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed.... And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*

Each gate of New Jerusalem that comes down from heaven was of one big pearl with a name of one of the tribes of Israel written on it with an angel guarding the entrance through this gate. Obviously all of this is holy, just as we found in Matthew 7, that a pearl is something holy and we considered the Bible as being that holy thing but it did not fit. Now we find that a pearl has the name of a Tribe of Israel on it!

Consider this, since entrance into New Jerusalem is through a gate with the name of a tribe of Israel on it, maybe **John 4:22** might help. Yeshua is talking to the Samaritan woman. *You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.* We also know that the Bible was given to Israel as custodians, every writer from Israel, and to be their way of life. So far I do not see a clear definition of what a "pearl" is from its figurative usage except that it must be something "holy."

Therefore I am turning to logic. The Treasure in this parable is Israel, the Chosen People. Those of Israel who are born-from-Above, **believers** in the coming Messiah in Tanakh times and in Yeshua since He came, are declared holy based on Abraham in **Genesis 15:6**. *And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

Now consider God's Good Olive Tree in **Romans 11:13-20**. *Now I am speaking to you Gentiles....in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous....If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you....They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you (Gentile believers) stand fast through faith.*

Therefore, Gentile believers are also declared holy! So my conclusion about the Pearl of Great Price is that it represents the born-from-Above Gentile component in the kingdom of the heavens with the name of a Tribe of Israel on each pearl gate to show that this believing Gentile component is intimately connected to Israel, not replacing Israel, not an entirely separate, and possibly competing, entity like those churches that believe in Replacement Theology. The Salvation provided by and offered by Yeshua is equally valid for Gentiles and Jews but comes through the Jewish Messiah Yeshua. Remember, Israel is *segulah*, a treasured possession for His purposes on earth not as favorites to the exclusion of others. As a song says, Jew and Gentile, one in Yeshua, one in the good Olive Tree... and we will love another!!

This Gentile component of the kingdom of the heavens, the pearl in the parable, is also called the "God Fearers" or "those who fear God," in the Tanakh, the Ger in Hebrew, usually translated as "strangers" within your gates.

Psalm 115:9-13. *O Israel (the 12 tribes), trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron (Tribe of Levi), trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. **You who fear the LORD** (the Ger or Gentile component of Israel in Tanakh times), trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.*

This same expression is used several more times in the Psalms and the Ger many times in the Tanakh, so throughout the Scriptures, Gentile believers have always been welcomed by God and have been part of His Family on earth. Abraham was a Gentile, Isaac was a Gentile, Jacob was a Gentile until God changed his name to "Israel," the first and only genuine and pure Israeli (by definition) since all others have mixed blood. For some more information about Isaac and Jacob and onward that will modify what I have just said above, please look in your Volume 2 of the *According to Roger* series at Chapter 54, p 305, "Sarah did what? Hebrews 11:11."

As for later times there is Cornelius, a God Fearer in **Acts 10:1-2.** *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. It is essential to notice that God accepted Cornelius directly as a Gentile without converting to Judaism as the Rabbis of the time required, which surprised Peter and all the Messianic leadership because they had believed the Rabbis but now they understood as Peter explained in **Acts 11:15-18.***

*"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on **us at the beginning.** And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."*

Surprise! Surprise!! No wonder Yeshua warned His disciples to beware of the leaven/teachings of the Pharisees and Sadducees! Yeshua had not taught His disciples about the place of Gentiles while He was here on earth since He came to the lost tribes of Israel. Now was the time to clear up this "conversion deception" so He arranged this Peter - Cornelius meeting to solve it once for all. There is no conversion process anywhere in the Bible's 66 Books!! A born Jew will always be a Jew, probably with a DNA marker if he/she is genuinely descended from Jacob, and a born Gentile will always be a Gentile even if some rabbi convinces him or her to go thru a Conversion process to join Judaism as a religion and become a citizen of present day Israel, but he/she can never become a Jew in God's reckoning.

The last parable in this chapter is about the **dragnet**. **Matthew 13:47-50**. *Again, the kingdom of the heavens is compared to a dragnet thrown into the sea, and gathering together of every kind; which, when it was filled, drawing it up on the shore, and sitting down, they gathered the good into containers, and they threw out the rotten. So it will be in the completion of the age: the angels will go out and will separate the evil from the midst of the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and gnashing of the teeth.*

This final parable in the series seems to sum it all up, not difficult at all with the information that Yeshua gives. The kingdom of the heavens during its first stage contains people of every kind of belief and disbelief, the **sea** representing the mass of humanity, a definition we need to keep in mind for other passages. At the end of the age, the angels will separate all evil persons **first**, rotten ones, and throw them into the furnace of fire while the righteous persons will continue on into the second stage of the kingdom of the heavens when *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*.

This "package of truth" that Yeshua gave on the shore of Kinneret by teaching 7 Parables and explaining 3 to His disciples, we have used Yeshua's method of interpreting the 3 as a basis for interpreting the other 4. Notice that each parable gives one aspect of the kingdom of the heavens such that to get a complete picture, all of them need to be taken together. The **Soils** taught us the various responses to God's invitation messages, the **Wheat & Darnel** taught the two components of His kingdom, the **Mustard Seed** taught how His kingdom began, how it grew and how it ended up, the **Leaven** taught us how evil entered and took over the kingdom of the heavens.

These first 4 also reveal that **satan & co.** are persistent to insert evil into God's kingdom in every way possible, but God is patient for now to let satan do his work because in his hatred toward God, satan is actually assisting in the sifting of humanity, to allow each person the opportunity to believe God's Word or to believe satan's lies!!

The **Treasure** taught the Joy that Yeshua had in paying the price that had to be paid to redeem Israel, and the **Pearl** taught the price that had to be paid to redeem the Gentile component of the kingdom of the heavens. Finally the **Dragnet** taught that God clearly knows those who are His, righteous by the Blood of Yeshua, and those who are not, rotten by rejection of Yeshua and choosing satan instead, and the final result for each as the kingdom of the heavens enters its second stage. There is no middle ground!!