

THE COMING KINGDOM



What Is the Kingdom and
How Is Kingdom Now Theology
Changing the Focus of the Church?

Andrew M. Woods

Foreword by Thomas Ice

The Coming Kingdom

Chapter 10



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Kingdom Study Outline



1. What does the Bible Say About the Kingdom?
2. The Main Problem with Kingdom Now NT interpretations
3. Why do some believe that we are in the kingdom now?
4. Why does it matter?



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| 1. Eden | 6. Old Testament Prophets |
| 2. Abrahamic Covenant | 7. Post exile |
| 3. Mosaic Covenant | 8. Offer of the King / Kingdom |
| 4. Divided Kingdom | 9. Rejection of the Offer |
| 5. Times of the Gentiles | 10. Interim Age |



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THE INTERIM AGE

1. The Inter-advent Age (Matt. 13)
2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



THE INTERIM AGE

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2. The Church Age (Matt. 16:18)



Matthew 13 Parables

- Public parables (13:1-2)
 - Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)
 - Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
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Matthew 13 Parables

The Sower:

Preaching of the gospel with various results



Why The Parable of the Sower Does Not Teach Kingdom Now Theology

1. The sower went out to sow (13:3)
2. The Word of the Kingdom enters hearts (13:19)
3. Only one type of soil is fruitful (13:23)
4. Satan is active (13:19)



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Matthew 13 Parables

Wheat & Tares:

Difficult to distinguish between
the saved and the unsaved
within professing Christendom



Why The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares Does Not Teach Kingdom Now Theology

1. Both grow together (13:30)
2. The Tares will increase (13:30)
3. No separation until the end of the age (13:39-43)
4. Satan is active (13:25, 28, 38-39)
5. Kingdom to be established at age's conclusion (13:43)



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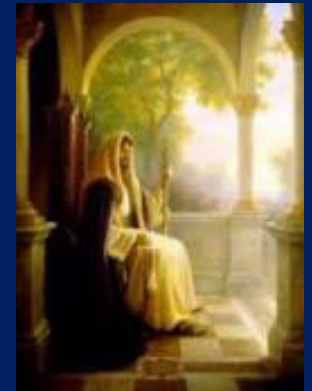
The Mustard Seed:

Christendom will experience great numerical and geographical expansion from a humble beginning and yet will ultimately represent an apostate form at great variance from its pure origins



Why The Parable of the Mustard Seed Does Not Teach Kingdom Now Theology

1. Must be understood in harmony with the first two parables (Matt. 13:23, 30)
2. A great tree whose roots go into the earth (Matt. 13:32; Philip. 3:20; 1 Pet. 2:11)
3. Herbs become a tree? (Matt. 13:32)
4. Birds = Satan (Matt. 13:32, 4, 19; Gen. 15:11; Deut. 28:26; Rev. 18:2)
5. Tree with birds in its branches = Gentile powers (Matt. 13:32; Dan. 4:10-12; 20-22; Ezek. 31:6)



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Matthew 13 Parables

The Leaven:

Christendom will experience ever increasing internal corruption throughout the age



Why The Parable of the Leaven Does Not Teach Kingdom Now Theology

1. The first 3 parables do not speak of world conversion
2. These parables are a mystery (Matt. 13:11, 16-17, 35) and yet the Gospel was known in OT (Gal. 3:8)
3. Leaven is not the Gospel
 - a. Many hear but do not respond
 - b. Women preachers? (1 Tim. 2:12)
 - c. The Gospel humbles and does not puff up
4. Parable's Gospel progress contradicted by history



Why The Parable of the Leaven Does Not Teach Kingdom Now Theology

5. Leaven is bad rather than good
 - a. Jewish audience
 - b. OT (Gen. 19:3; Exod. 12; 34:25; Lev. 2:11)
 - c. NT (Matt. 16:11-12; Luke 12:1; 1 Cor. 5:6-7; Gal. 5:7-9)
6. “Meal” is good rather than bad (Gen. 18:6; 1 Kgs. 17:14-16; John 12:24)
7. Hiding leaven is not Gospel preaching (Matt. 10:27; 2 Cor. 4:2)



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Background to the Matthew 13 Parables

1. Their position in Matthew's Gospel
2. Their mystery nature
3. They do not represent the kingdom
4. They represent course of the present age
5. The experiences of the kingdom's sons
6. They are taught in parables
7. Their two-fold division



Matthew 13:1-2 (NASB)

“That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.”



Matthew 13:36 (NASB)

“Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, ‘Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.’”



The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“Yes, there was every reason for the poor disciples to be perplexed and dismayed...He made known to them that, though the outward professing cause of Christianity upon earth would develop so tragically, yet there will be no failure on the part of God. He tells them there are two bodies, two elect peoples, who are inexpressibly precious in His sight, and that through them He will manifest the inexhaustible riches of His grace and glory—and that, in the two realms of His dominion—on the earth and in heaven. Two distinct elect companies, one the ‘treasure’ hid in the field, symbolizing the literal nation of Israel; the other, the one ‘pearl,’ symbolizing the one body which has a heavenly . . .

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

. . .calling, destiny, citizenship, and inheritance. The order of these next two parables is this: 'To the Jew first, and also to the Greek.' Therefore, the hidden treasure in the field, the symbol of Israel, is given before the pearl, which is the figure of the Church."

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Matthew 13 Parables



The Hidden Treasure:
Israel will remain in unbelief only to be
converted at the age's conclusion

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“The common interpretation of this parable, both by Calvinists and Arminians, is as far removed from what I am fully assured is its true meaning as is the explanation they give of the earlier ones in Matthew 13. Dr. John Gill tells us that the treasure in this parable is ‘the Gospel,’ that the field in which the treasure is hidden is ‘the Scriptures,’ and that the man who sought and found the treasure is ‘an elect and awakened sinner.’ It is amazing how such an exegete of the Scriptures, and a man so deeply taught of God, could wander so far astray when he came to this parable.”

Why The Earthen Treasure Parable Does Not Teach Personal Salvation

1. The field is the world & not Scripture (13:38)
2. Man = JC & not a sinner (13:24, 37, 44)
3. Why spoken of in private? (13:36)
4. How is JC/Gospel hidden in the world? (13:36)
5. Why hide the Gospel after receiving it? (13:44)
6. Works salvation (Matt. 13:44; Isa. 64:6)
7. Sinner purchases the world? (13:38, 44)



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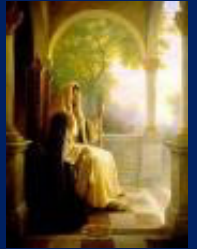


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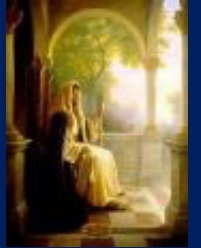


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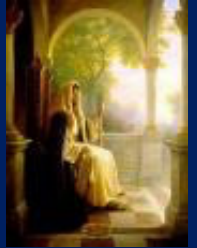
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5. Re-hiding = Israel's rejection of the offer (Matt. 12) & discipline (Deut. 28:15-68)
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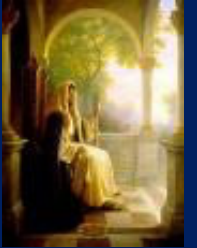
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Exodus 19:5-6

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

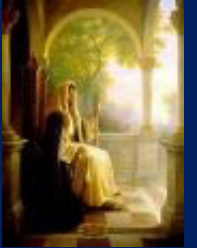


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Messengers of the Kingdom In Matthew



- John the Baptist – 3:2
- Jesus Christ – 4:17
- 12 Apostles – 10:5-7
- Seventy – Luke 10:1, 9

Toussaint, *Behold the King*, 18-20

Matthew 3:1-2 (NASB)

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Matthew 4:17 (NASB)

“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Matthew 10:5-7 (NASB)

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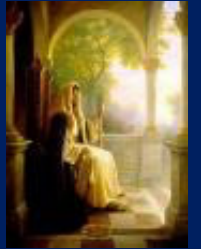


Matthew 15:24 (NASB)

“But He answered and said, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”



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Six Parts of a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty in Deuteronomy

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Prologue (1:6–4:40)
- Covenant obligations (5–26)
- Storage and reading instructions (27:2-3; 31:9, 24, 26)
- Witnesses (32:1)
- Blessings and curses (28)

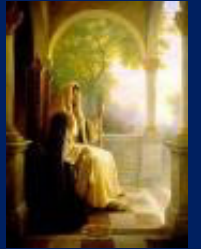


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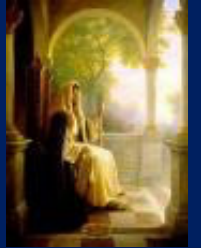


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1. Man = JC & (13:24, 37, 44)
2. Treasure = Israel & not Church (Exod. 19:4; Deut. 14:2; 32:8; Ps. 135:4)
3. Hidden treasure = Israel's apostasy (13:44)
4. Uncovering of the treasure = kingdom offer (13:44)
5. Re-hiding = Israel's rejection of the offer (Matt. 12) & discipline (Deut. 28:15-68)
6. Purchase of the field = JC's death for Israel (2 Pet. 2:1)
7. Implicit coming again = Israel's conversion at the age's conclusion (13:44)

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“First, we have the treasure hid in the field: that takes us back to the beginning of Israel’s history as a nation. Second, we have the Man finding that treasure; that is Christ coming to this earth and confining His message to the Jews in Palestine. Third, we have the Man hiding the treasure; that is Christ’s judgment upon Israel because of their rejection of Him referring to their dispersion abroad throughout the earth. Fourth, we have the Man purchasing the treasure and the whole field in which it was found, referring to the death of Christ...”

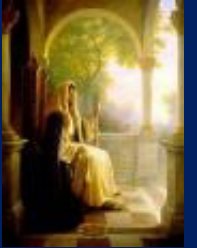
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“...Now, have you noticed there is a fifth point omitted?—the logical completion of the parable would be the Man actually *possessing* the treasure that He purchased. He hid it, then He purchased it. Logically, the parable needs this to complete it—the Man owning and possessing the treasure. Why is that left out? Because *it lies outside the scope of Matthew 13*. This chapter, dealing with the ‘mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,’ has to do with the history of *Christendom*. It describes the cause of Christ on this earth during the period of His absence, and therefore there is nothing in this parable about the restoration of Israel and the Lord possessing His earthly treasure, because that . . .

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...comes *after* this dispensation is over, after the history of Christendom has been wound up, after the new age has been inaugurated, namely, the Millennium! How perfect is Scripture in its omissions! For passages treating of Christ's recovery and possession of the treasure see Amos 9:14, 15; Acts 15:17. In due time the Jews *shall be manifested* as God's peculiar 'treasure' on 'earth'—see Isaiah 62:1–4.”

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Matthew 13 Parables



The Hidden Treasure:
Israel will remain in unbelief only to be
converted at the age's conclusion

Exodus 19:5-6

“Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”



Deuteronomy 17:15

“you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.”



Matthew 23:37-39 (NASB)

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸ Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! ³⁹ For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!’”

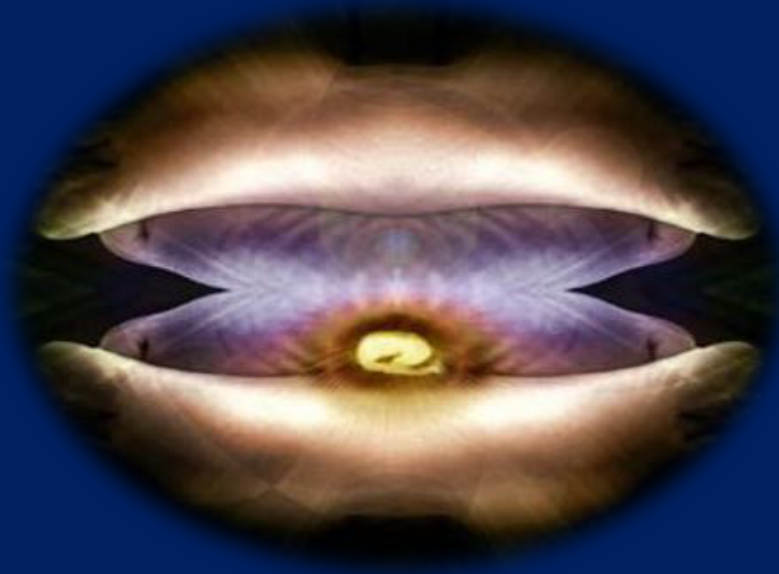


Matthew 13 Parables

- Public parables (13:1-2)
 - Sower (13:1-9, 18-23)
 - Wheat and tares (13:24-30, 36-43)
 - Mustard seed (13:31-32)
 - Leaven (13:33)
- **Private parables (13:36)**
 - Earthen treasure (13:44)
 - **Pearl of great price (13:45-46)**
 - Dragnet (13:47-50)
 - Householder (13:51-52)



Matthew 13 Parables



The Pearl of Great Price:

The Lord will gain a treasure from among the Gentiles

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

“The general conception of its meaning is this! Christianity is likened unto one who earnestly desired and diligently sought salvation. Ultimately his efforts were rewarded by his finding Christ, the Pearl of great price. Having found Him, as presented in the Gospel, the sinner sold all that he had: that is to say, he forsook all that the flesh held dear, he abandoned his worldly companions, he surrendered his will, he dedicated his life to God; and in that way, secured his salvation. The awful thing is that this interpretation is the one which, substantially, is given out almost everywhere throughout Christendom today. That is . . .

The Prophetic Parables of Matthew Thirteen - A. W. Pink

. . .what is taught in the great majority of the denominational Sunday School periodicals. During the last twenty years I have examined scores of Sunday School teachers' aids in which an exposition of this parable has been found. The one which I have just given is an outline of that which has commonly been advanced."

Why The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price Does Not Teach Personal Salvation

1. Man = JC & not a sinner (13:24, 37, 44, 45-46)
2. Works salvation (Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23)
3. Men do not seek God (Gen. 3:8-10; Josh. 24:2-3; Luke 19:10; John 3:19-21; 16:7-11; 12:32; Rom. 3:11)



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Summation of the Parables of the Earthen Treasure & The Pearl of Great Price (Matt. 13:44-46)

1. JC's death will redeem many Jews & Gentiles
2. How JC values us rather than vice versa
3. What God does for man rather than vice versa
4. Comfort to disciples imminently expecting the kingdom
5. Despite apostasy, God is still at work in this age
 - A. Among the Jews (13:44)
 - B. Among the Gentiles (13:45-46)



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Conclusion

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