

**Review:** after covering an overview of Millennial and Rapture views, and a survey of the Kingdom, we turn to an overview of eschatological passages in the New Testament.

## I. Matthew. (ca. A.D. 50)

1. Written to show that Christ is the promised Messiah (Mt 1.22-23)
2. Written to present Christ to the Jews
3. Emphatically presents Christ as the King (Mt 2.2-6)
4. Both John the Baptist and our Lord declared that the Kingdom come near (Mt 3.2; 4.17)

### E. Matthew 10.34

1. Christ said plainly that He would not send peace on earth, but a sword.
2. Scofield: "the truth which He was proclaiming would not bring in the kingdom-age of peace, but conflict rather." p. 1009.
3. We should note that in the Church Age, His servants do not fight; they take up their cross, not their sword. The cross is their sword. (Mt 10.38)

### F. Matthew 11.11-12

1. John was the last of the OT dispensation of prophets.
2. The least believer of the NT dispensation has greater privileges and position than John had.
3. The violently resolute were already pressing into the new dispensation by faith, despite the violence of unbelievers who oppose the kingdom.

### G. Matthew 12.36-42

1. A day of judgment is coming in which men must give account of every idle word.
2. The request of the Pharisees for a sign was insincere.
  - a. Nevertheless, Jesus granted them a sign, the sign of Jonah.

b. The sign of Jonah prophesies resurrection, something the Jews clearly understood (Mt 27.61-62)

3. Jesus warned them that it will go hard with men who had great light and rejected it. (41-42)
4. Since the examples given were not OT saints, the greater judgement of those rejecting Jesus implies degrees of punishment.

#### H. Matthew 13: The eight parables of the Mystery Kingdom

1. A “mystery” in Scripture is a previously hidden truth, now revealed by God, about which some mystery remains.
2. Mystery: “a secret known only to the initiate.” (Jesse Boyd notes)
3. The “slow growth” aspect of the Kingdom not revealed before this.
4. Structure
  - a. First four parables delivered in a public address
  - b. Last four parables delivered in private instruction
  - c. Perhaps a chiasmic structure (1 parallel to 8, 2 to 7, etc.) (Jesse Boyd notes)

#### 5. **Sidebar: Mysteries of the NT** (Jesse Boyd notes)

- a. Mystery of the Kingdom (Mt 13.35)
- b. Mystery of Israel’s blindness (Rm 11.25)
- c. Mystery of God (1 Co 4.1, Col 2.2)
- d. Mystery of the Rapture (1 Co 15.51)
- e. Mystery of the Indwelling (Col 1.26-27)
- f. Mystery of Christ (Col 4.3)
- g. Mystery of iniquity (2 Thess 2.7)
- h. Mystery of the faith (1 Tim 3.9)
- i. Mystery of godliness (1 Tim 3.16)
- j. Mystery of the seven stars and seven lampstands (Rev 1.20)
- k. Mystery of Babylon the great (Rev 17.5)
- l. Mystery of the woman and the beast (Rev 17.7)

## I. Matthew 13.3-23. The Sower — entering the Kingdom

1. The seed sown is the Word (Mark); the Word of God (Luke); Word of the Kingdom (Matthew).
  - a. Any part of God's Word believed will bring salvation. (Gen 15.5-6)
  - b. Some people come to salvation by passages which are not "salvation verses."
  - c. Faith to receive the Word is the deciding factor. (John 7.17)
2. The four kinds of soil are 4 kinds of heart reception of the Word
  - a. Soil alongside the road: hard-packed ground. (Pharisees) (Luke 7.30)
  - b. Shallow soil over rock: bed-rock keeps out roots. (Many went back) (John 6.66)
  - c. Soil with thorns: the competition always wins. (Rich ruler) (Mt 19.22)
  - d. Good soil: receives seed and yields fruit, but always with varying percentages, (23)
3. The defects in the soils are typical:
  - a. Birds (demons?) take the seed off hard ground. (work of the devil)
  - b. Quick reception, quick rejection: no root in himself. (flesh)
  - c. Thorns: cares and riches choke the Word. (world)

## J. Matthew 13.24-30; 36-43. Wheat and Tares — the Kingdom in this Age

1. The Sower is the Son of Man; the enemy is the devil.
2. The good seed are God's children; tares are the devil's children.
3. The harvest is the consummation of the age.
4. The good and the evil remain mingled together in this age.
5. The angels will gather all things that offend out of Christ's Kingdom at the consummation of this age. (40-41)
6. Then the righteous shine forth as the sun. (43)