

Sunday December 6th 2015
Without a Parable
Part Eleven

1). Mt 13:33 *Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." 34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."*

a). We had seen in our study last week how following the parable of the leaven and prior to the Lord going back into the house our writer, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, provides us with additional information on the Lord's use of parables.

b). And we had seen from v35 here and from Psalm 78 to which this verse refers, that, contained in the parables the Lord gives, are 'things kept secret from the foundation of the world'. These are the 'dark sayings of old' from Psalm 78 and the 'mysteries of the kingdom of heaven' from Matthew 13:11.

c). And we had seen that in the phrases, 'dark sayings of old', 'things kept secret', 'mysteries of the kingdom of heaven' is the idea of something that already exists in the OT scriptures, but has been concealed in such a way as to require it to be searched out, to put the pieces of the puzzle together, something perfectly consistent with the way scripture tells us scripture is to be understood.

d). In the following verses we find the scriptures' instructions for how we are to do this – Isa 28:10 *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."*

Lu 24:5 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.....44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to

you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Joh 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

Putting all these verses together we have the complete picture of how the scriptures are to be understood by those who will have ears to hear. It does require work on our part to submit ourselves to the process and it is also a work of the Holy Spirit within us, bringing forth 'all truth' from above, as we choose to do so. And choosing to do so, with all diligence, has the most glorious outcome - Ps 25:4 *Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.*

Pr 25:2 ¶ It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Or to say all of this another way - Mt 7:7 ¶ *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!*

2). Before we leave the secret things from the foundation of the world, the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, let's look at one last thing – we will

remember that the Matthew 13 parables deal with a people other than Israel to whom the kingdom of the heavens will be given contingent upon their production of fruit with respect to that Kingdom. These people comprising the one new man in Christ, who would occupy positions of rulership with Christ in the heavenly realm of the Kingdom, would come primarily from the Gentiles and this is the very thing that Paul speaks of in - Col 1:24 *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

And here in Colossians Paul again draws attention to the fact that this is ‘the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations’, the mystery that is inseparably connected to glory.

a). And because of what the scriptures teach concerning this ‘mystery’, that which we have already looked at this morning, we must expect to find this within the pages of the OT scriptures. And if we begin with Moses as the Lord did in Luke Chapter 24 this is exactly what we do find in the foundation upon which all is built - Ge 1:27 *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 ¶ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 ¶ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

b). Here then is the foundational type, the beginning of the picture ‘to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the

Gentiles' and the foundation given is of the Man and the Woman, a completely new creation, brought together in a husband/wife relationship in order to rule together in the 7th Day, and by comparing scripture with scripture, spiritual things with spiritual, we know that - Ro 5:14*Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

And - Eph 5:31 *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* 32 *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

c). And if we take what we have 'here' and add it to what we find 'there', placing line upon line and precept upon precept we find the scriptures opened further through the types of Rebekah and Isaac, Joseph and Asenath, Moses and Zipporah and of course through Ruth and Boaz – the Gentile woman who becomes part of a Jewish family associated with death who marries a wealthy relative who is able to redeem the inheritance lost as a result of the death of her former husband - Ru 3:8 *Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.*

9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." 10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman....."

Ru 4:13 ¶ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

d). All of these then picture Christ and those who will be His Bride/Wife with respect to rulership in the 7th Day, these are the very same people other than Israel who are seen in the first 4 Matthew 13 parables – here then, in these few examples, are a smattering of the ‘dark sayings of old’, the ‘things kept secret from the foundation of the world’, ‘the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven’ – revealed as Paul says by the Lord to ‘His saints’ that we might know ‘the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles - Isa 11:10 ¶ *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glory."*

e). This is only a brief synopsis, but I am sure we get the idea.

3). Mt 13:34 *All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." 36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."*

a). Following Matthew’s commentary on the Lord’s use of parables we see that, ‘Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house’ and it is while He is in the house that He gives the remaining 3 parables in this 7 parable sequence – and what we will realize is that the parables that the Lord gives back in the house are also a part of the things kept secret from the foundation of the world, the dark sayings of old.

b). Now before we begin to look at the verses which will follow let’s notice something about the Lord going into the house – if we go back to the beginning of these parables we will remember this at the beginning of the Chapter - Mt 13:1 ¶ *On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.*

c). In this verse we are clearly told that Jesus left ‘the house’ in order to go to ‘the sea’ – now if we compare this with v 36 we will notice that there is a difference, ‘Then Jesus sent the multitudes away and went into the house’. Here there is no mention of Jesus leaving ‘the sea’; just that He went into the house.

d). This might seem pretty insignificant, but really it's not, and seeks to confirm for us that although that which Jesus is about to say in the next parable has to do with Israel, that which He will say concerning Israel can't be separated from the subject of the previous 4 parables, the people other than Israel who hear the word of the kingdom.

e). So let's just take a look at what comes next - Mt 13:44 ¶ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven continues like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven continues like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 "who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven continues like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 "which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. 49 "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 "and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

f). Now, in order to make sense of what we are seeing in these last 3 parables let's begin by remembering that the 4th parable given outside of the house, the parable of the leaven, had taken us from the beginning to the end of this present dispensation where we had seen the deterioration and corruption of the proclamation of the word of the kingdom to the point that by the time the 'Church' is resurrected/raptured to appear at Christ's Judgment Seat the message proclaimed within the "church" is totally leavened. And this is something confirmed for us through the condition of the 7th of the 7 churches seen in the opening Chapters of the Revelation, the church of the Laodiceans – Re 3:15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

g). This is the point in time then at which the parable of the leaven ends. That which then follows in the final 3 parables takes us beyond the end of this present dispensation, beyond the events at Christ's Judgment Seat to events that must transpire prior to the establishment of Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

h). As going out of 'the house' at the beginning of the parables in Matthew 13:1 pictured for us the setting aside of Israel while the Lord called out of the Gentiles a people for His name, so the Lord going into 'the house' in Matthew 13:36 pictures the Lord resuming His dealings with Israel once again. But, even though Israel is the subject of the 5th parable the people other than Israel who hear the word of the kingdom still remain in view.

i). Let's remember from our study of the opening Chapters of the Revelation that it is only after the events at the Judgment Seat are completed that One is found worthy to open the seals on the 7 sealed scroll and it is with the opening of the first seal on this scroll that the events of the Tribulation are set in motion - Re 6:1 ¶ *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

j). And if we go back to the 'dark sayings of old' it is only after Ruth has appeared on Boaz's threshing floor at midnight that Boaz goes to redeem the inheritance at the gates of the city - Ru 4:9 ¶ *And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 "Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."*

4). The Tribulation and the redemption of the inheritance are one and the same thing – the Tribulation has to do with God's dealings with Israel amongst the Gentile nations in order to bring His chosen people to repentance to affect their healing and restoration all of which is seen through the judgments contained within the 7 seals on the 7 sealed scroll and is pictured for us, again via the dark sayings of old, through the events recorded in the Book of Esther. The judgments within the 7 seals also constitute the terms of the redemption of the inheritance, an inheritance to be redeemed for the Bride identified at Christ's Judgment Seat.

a). And these 2 facets to God's actions following the Judgment Seat are exactly what we see presented in the 5th and 6th parables.

b). Let's look at the 5th parable again - Mt 13:44 ¶ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven continues like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

c). There are several things we will want to note here – we see that there is 'treasure hidden in a field' and we see from our verse that 'a man' found the treasure and was then responsible for hiding it in the field. We then see that 'for joy over' the treasure he 'sells all that he has' and then 'buys that field' – he doesn't buy the treasure, but rather the field in which the treasure is hidden.

d). If we go back to the previous parables we know that the 'field' is used as a picture of the world - Mt 13:38 *"The field is the world,*

The 'man' has also been identified for us previously - Mt 13:24 ¶ *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven has become like a **man** who sowed good seed in his field;*

Mt 13:37 *He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.*

e). So to add these 2 pieces of information into the parable of the treasure we see that it is the Lord who finds the 'treasure' and the Lord who then hides the treasure and having hidden it He then sells all that He has so that He may subsequently buy that field.

f). The finding of the treasure, the hiding of the treasure and the selling of all that He has take us to past events at the Lord's first advent with the buying of the field remaining yet future.

g). So how do we identify the 'treasure'? Really this is a simple thing to do just from the context within the parables themselves and the prophetic chronology seen in the Book of the Revelation.

h). If Christ leaving the house pictures the setting aside of the nation of Israel then His returning to the house must picture the resumption of His dealings with Israel. And then beyond the end of this dispensation, following the events of the Judgment Seat it is Israel who again comes into focus with the opening of the seals on the 7 sealed scroll – the 'treasure' then must be Israel - Ex 19:5 *'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My*

covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

Ps 135:4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

i). At the Lord's first advent He finds 'treasure', He comes to the nation of Israel and His setting aside of the nation equates with Him hiding the treasure.

j). The Lord selling all that He has pictures the price that He paid at His crucifixion, an event that has made possible the buying of the field. But we will note that the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection did not result in the immediate purchase of the field – this remains something even now yet future because, as we have already seen, the purchase of the field is the redemption of the inheritance and this cannot take place until Christ's Bride has been identified.

k). And of course the implication from the parable is that having purchased the field the man automatically possesses the treasure hidden in it, which is exactly what will happen at the conclusion of the Tribulation. Israel will be brought to repentance, will be healed and restored. They will look on the One whom they pierced and the veil will be lifted and that said in Exodus 19:5 will be brought to pass - Isa 12:1 ¶ *And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'" 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. 4 ¶ And in that day you will say: "Praise the LORD, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. 5 Sing to the LORD, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth. 6 Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"*

5). We will continue with this next time – if the Lord is willing.