

Study Questions
Matthew 13 Parables – Part Five
The Parable of the Mustard Seed
Sunday January 10th 2010

1). What is the connection between the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the wheat and the tares?

2). Mt 13:31 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like [the proclamation and offer of the Kingdom of the heavens has become like and continues like] a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."*

- a). What does the mustard seed represent?
- b). How was it supposed to grow?
- c). Do we have any scripture that would demonstrate natural growth?
- d). What caused it to grow unnaturally?
- e). What other names are used in scripture to describe the tares and what they did?
- f). What does the name ‘apostate’ mean? And what does the name tell you?

- g). What does the symbolism of a tree tell us?
- h). Who are the birds of the air who come and nest the branches of the tree?
- i). Do we have a scripture that would help describe this?
- k). What do you think is the result of these corrupted teachings?

2). Nu 22:5 *Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! 6 "Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me.*

a). When the first generation of Israel is moving towards the land of their inheritance, what does Balak do to try to stop them?

b). What happens when Balaam tries to curse them?

c). Re 2:14 *"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.*

So, according to our scripture what did Balaam do instead of cursing Israel?

d). How did this bring about Israel's downfall?

e). What does our scripture in Revelation 2:14 tell us about the church?

f). What do you think this means?

g). Do we have any other scriptures connected to Rev 2:14?

3). What did the Christians in the early church have to face and from whom?

a). 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church' – what does this tell us was the result of persecution?

b). If persecution couldn't destroy the church what had Satan already set in place to stop it from producing fruit?

c). How can we connect this with the parable of the wheat and tares?

d). What did the false message of the tares gradually do?

e). What happened at the beginning of the 4th century?

f). What did Theodosius I do? And what did this mean for the church?

g). What do we know about Gentile nations that makes this so disastrous?

4). Joh 18:36 *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world [age]. If My kingdom were of this world [age], My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."*

a). What does Jesus plainly say about His Kingdom?

b). What do you think He meant by that?

c). Do we have any other scripture to help us here?

d). Do we have an example from the life of David that would picture this for us?

e). How seriously do you think God takes our involvement in the present system of rulership?

f). Can you explain why so many Christians continue to be involved in it?

g). What does all of this mean for you personally?

i). How can you go about helping others to see the truth?