

The Enemy and the Kingdom

Lesson 10: Matthew 13:1-30; 36-43

August 9, 2020

Spiritual warfare

- Not a physical struggle, but against spiritual forces of wickedness
- Our weapons are not physical
- We are soldiers of Jesus Christ
 - Disciplined, diligent
 - Not entangled with everyday life
- Christ is the one who fights
 - He will defeat the enemies
 - We defend the kingdom

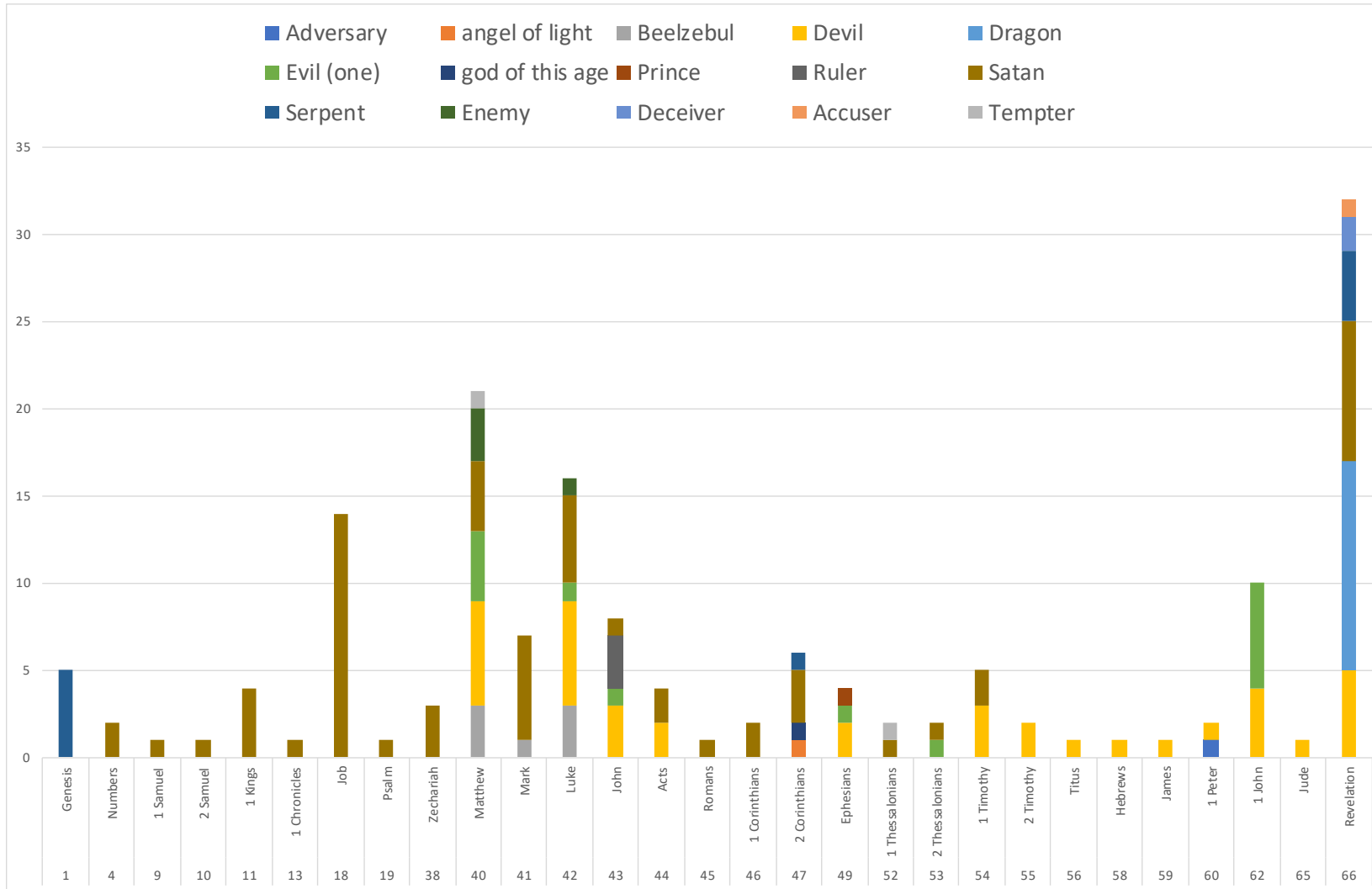
Spiritual warfare

- Communication
 - With the Lord through prayer
 - With fellow believers
- Supply – Holy Spirit
- Intelligence – the Bible: truth, the enemy, ourselves, our Savior
- Weapons – the Word of God, prayer
- Situational awareness

Words for Satan

- Satan
- Devil
- Evil one
- Accuser
- The ruler of this world
- Prince of the power of the air
- Dragon
- Serpent
- The god of this age
- Beelzebul
- Angel of light
- Tempter
- Enemy
- Deceiver
- Accuser

Words for Satan



Introduction

- Previous chapter
- Main section of parables
- Kingdom parables

Outline

- 1-9 The parable of the sower
- 10-17 Why parables are used
- 18-23 Explanation of the parable of the sower
- 24-30 Parable of the tares
- 36-43 Explanation of the parable of the tares

Parable of the sower

Matthew 13:1-9

¹That day Jesus went out of the house and was **sitting** by the sea. ²And large **crowds** gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and **sat** down, and the whole **crowd** was standing on the beach.

³And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴and as he sowed, some **seeds fell** beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Others **fell** on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, **because they had no** depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and **because they had no** root, they withered away. ⁷Others **fell** among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸And others **fell** on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

- Bad soils
 - No soil – eaten by birds
 - Rocky soil – scorched, withered
 - Thorny soil – choked
- What is needed
 - Good depth
 - Good surroundings

Why parables are used Matthew 13:10-13

¹⁰And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in **parables**?”
¹¹Jesus answered them, “To you it has been **granted** to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been **granted**. ¹²For whoever has, to him *more* shall be **given**, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. ¹³Therefore I speak to them in **parables**; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

- Understanding of mysteries is granted by God
- The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are for disciples
- Parables conceal

Why parables are used Matthew 13:14-17

¹⁴In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,
'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand;
You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;
¹⁵For the **heart** of this people has become dull,
With their **ears** they scarcely hear,
And they have closed their **eyes**,
Otherwise they would see with their **eyes**,
Hear with their **ears**,
And understand with their **heart** and return,
And I would heal them.'

¹⁶But blessed are your **eyes**, because they see; and your **ears**, because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

- The heart influences the ability of our ears and eyes
- Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled as Jesus taught
- Understanding leads to action

Explanation of the parable of the sower Matthew 13:18-21

¹⁸“**Hear** then the parable of the sower.
¹⁹When anyone **hears** the **word** of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. ²⁰The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who **hears** the **word** and **immediately** receives it with joy; ²¹yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the **word**, **immediately** he falls away.

- One can hear without understanding
- Sowing takes place in the heart
- Not understanding – the evil one takes away
- Hearing, receiving, but no root – falls away

Explanation of the parable of the sower Matthew 13:22-23

²²And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who **hears** the **word**, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the **word**, and it becomes unfruitful. ²³And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who **hears** the **word** and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

- Path – **hears**, does **not understand**
- Rocks – **hears**, but...no root
- Thorns – **hears**, but...no fruit
- Good – **hears**, **understands**, fruit
- To be fruitful, hearing needs to lead to understanding

Terms from this parable

- Sower – unspecified, one bringing the word of the kingdom
- Seed – the word of the kingdom
- Soil – the heart
 - Beside the road – does not understand, the evil one takes away
 - On rocky places – hears, no firm root, falls away
 - Among thorns – hears, choked, unfruitful
 - Good soil – hears, understands, bears fruit
- Fruit – unspecified, seed for the next planting

Parable of the tares Matthew 13:24-30

²⁴Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while his men were sleeping, his **enemy** came and sowed **tares** among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the **tares** became evident also. ²⁷The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have **tares**?’ ²⁸And he said to them, ‘An **enemy** has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the **tares**, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the **tares** and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.””

- The purpose of this parable is to illustrate the kingdom of heaven
- Tares don't bear fruit
- The tares must be left so as not to damage the wheat
- Results
 - Tares burned
 - Wheat gathered to barn

Explanation of the parable of the tares Matthew 13:36-43

³⁶Then 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." ³⁷And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, ³⁸and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the **sons** of the kingdom; and the tares are the **sons** of the evil *one*; ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴²and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

- Good sower
 - Field
 - Sons of the kingdom
 - Sons of the evil one
- Bad sower
- Harvest
 - harvesters

Terms from this parable

- Sower – Son of Man, Jesus Christ
- Field – the world
- Good seed – the sons of the kingdom, Christians
- Tares – sons of the evil one, unbelievers
- Enemy – the devil
- Harvest – the end of the age
- Harvesters – angels

Summary

- Fruitfulness plays a part in both parables. How fruitful are we?
- Do we understand the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven?
- To be useful, hearing needs to be combined with understanding
- What are we doing to ensure our heart is good soil?
- There is wisdom in letting the tares remain until harvest