

Preliminary Thoughts on Matthew 12 and 13

## Matthews Arrangement of Material

### Narrative

Chapters 1-4

Chapters 8,9

Chapters 11-13

Chapters 19 -25 Narrative and Teaching  
become intermingled

### Teaching

Chapters 5-7

Chapter 10

Chapters 14-18

1

Central to Matthews Gospel - 16:16-18 “Whom do men say that I am?” In the section we are looking at note how this question surfaces: 11:2,3 “Art thou he?” Also 12:23 “Is not this ...?” This is a leading theme in this section. Evidences that Jesus is the Messiah.

Along with this in this section, the theme of judgment. 11:20-24; 12:36,37; 12:39-42; 13:1; 13.47-52. And of course, 12:32!

Evidence

Judgment

2

However, going back to 11:2,3 – John preached “the ax is laid to the root of the tree”. John was now in prison. Where was the judgment? This raises the question of the timing of the establishment of the kingdom and how it was to be set up. The Lord will explain this in the parables of Matthew 13, the “mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven”.

Matthew 13 will describe general characteristics of the inter-advent period, beginning with the Lord Jesus on earth and continuing until His return at the end of the age.

Parables 1-4 Program of God attacked

Parables 5-7 Program of God Accomplished

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- I. Matthew at the gateway.  
Understanding of Matthew enables better grasp of New Testament.
- II. Matthew very “Jewish” and the most “dispensational”.
  - A. Understanding dispensational approach to Scriptures one of greatest aids to rightly dividing the word of truth.

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III. Note the line of rejection climaxing in chapter 12:31,32

IV. Now the “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” introduced.

- A. out of house by the sea
- B. distanced
- C. parables – first mention cp. 13:9-17. To reveal and conceal. Compare Matthew 13:14,15 with Isaiah 6:9,10

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V. Matthew’s use of kingdom of heaven as opposed to kingdom of God (sometimes terms are used interchangeably)

- A. The Daniel / Messianic connection

VI. God’ has always had a Theocracy or kingdom; just mediated in various forms

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Constituency of the Kingdom	"Kingdom of Heaven" used in:	"Kingdom of God" used in:
a. Both true and false together		
the parable of the soils	Matthew 13	Mark 4 and Luke 13
the parable of the wheat and tares	Matthew 13	
the parable of the dragnet	Matthew 13	
b. The true only		
the parable of gradual growth	Matthew 13	Mark 4
the parable of hid treasure	Matthew 13	
the parable of the pearl		
c. The false only		
the parable of the mustard seed	Matthew 13	Mark 4 and Luke 13
the parable of the leaven	Matthew 13	Luke 13

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## VII. The mystery of the kingdom of heaven – what it is and what it isn't

### A. What it isn't

1. Not equated to 1,000-year kingdom; that was no mystery
2. Not a spiritual kingdom for that only entered by new birth
3. Not the eternal kingdom
4. Not the church – for it is more inclusive than that

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Mystery = a previously unrevealed truth. A previously unrevealed truth of the kingdom of heaven. It was no mystery that one day the God of Heaven would set up a kingdom on earth that would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44).

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B. What it is

1. A mystery that the One in whom the kingdom was to be realized would be presented, rejected, and an age fall between this rejection and fulfillment of God's purpose to bring in the kingdom on earth. The mystery that evil would be allowed to continue – Note: 13:28-30; 40-43; 49-50
2. That the age in which we are living would be a kingdom with an absent king.
3. That this kingdom is a sphere of “profession” – real or genuine believers and some claiming to be believers but not genuine.

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This is one of the significant themes of Matthew 13. Even many Christians fail to see this. Our Lord taught it so we shouldn't be surprised by it.

- A kingdom with an absent king
- A kingdom in which evil is allowed to continue
- A kingdom where God's plan is attacked
- A kingdom where the enemy is allowed to operate