

Entering and Reigning In The Kingdom-Our Only Focus Part 14

The Mustard Seed, The Yeast and The Net

John 1: ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own (*Israel*), but his own (*Israel*) did not receive him. ¹²**Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—** ¹³**children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.**

Acts 9: ¹⁴And he (*Saul*) has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵But **the Lord** said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument **to carry my name before the GENTILES and their kings and before the people of Israel.** ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Acts 21: ²⁷When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸shouting, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against **our people** (*Israel*) and **OUR law and this place.** And besides, he has brought Greeks (*Gentiles*) into the temple area and defiled this holy place." ²⁹(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.) ³⁰The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.

Acts 10: ²⁷Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of **people.** ²⁸He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against **our law** for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call **any man** impure or unclean.

Ephesians 3: ¹For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— ²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known **to me by revelation**, as I have already written briefly (Roman 16:26,27) .

⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

⁶**This mystery is** that through the gospel **THE GENTILES are heirs TOGETHER WITH Israel, members together of ONE body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.** ⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power.

⁸Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, **which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.** ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 1: ²⁴Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶**the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, BUT IS NOW disclosed to the saints.** ²⁷To them God has chosen to make known **among the Gentiles** the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Corinthians 2: ⁷No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that **HAS** been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, **they would NOT have crucified** the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—

Matthew 13: ³¹He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is **like** a mustard seed, which a man took and planted **in his field**. ³²Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13: ⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied.

Matthew 13: ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, **and the birds** came and ate it up.

¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil one** (*defined as the birds*) comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

³³He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is **like** yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." ³⁴Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

Matthew 13: ⁴⁷"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is **like** a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen (*refers here to the angels*) pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the **good fish** in baskets, but threw **the bad away**. ⁴⁹This is how it will be **at the end of the age**. The **angels** will come and separate **the wicked** from **the righteous** ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and **they** will weed **OUT OF HIS kingdom** everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²**They** will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Matthew 8: ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²**But the subjects of the kingdom** will be **thrown outside**, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."