

## Revelation 2-3 Summary Part III

### APPLICATIONS

#### D. Prophetic- outlines the Church Age as a whole

See 7 Kingdom Parables in Matthew 13:

Today, as promised, we'll compare the 7 kingdom parables to the 7 Letters to the Churches in Revelation 2&3.

#### Parable of the Sower

*Mat 13:3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.*

*Mat 13:4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.*

*Mat 13:5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.*

*Mat 13:6 But when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.*

*Mat 13:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.*

*Mat 13:8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

*Mat 13:9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

#### Interpretation:

*Mat 13:18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:*

*Mat 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.*

*Mat 13:20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.*

*Mat 13:21 yet he has no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.*

*Mat 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he **becomes** unfruitful.*

*Mat 13:23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

#### Letter to Ephesus

*Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden*

*lampstands:*

*Rev 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them liars.*

*Rev 2:3 and you have persevered and have patience and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.*

*Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*

*Rev 2:5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

*Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

**Notice how they both open:**

***"Behold, a sower went out to sow"***

***"These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:"***

**In both cases the Master- Jesus- holds the goods in His hand.**

**The Sower holds the seed, He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands, holds the Church and His ministers in His own right hand.**

**The Sower casts His seed on four types of ground.**

**By the Wayside**

**On Stony ground**

**Among thorns and thistles**

**On good ground**

**The church in Ephesus typifies the early Apostolic Church. They were the birth of the church itself as Jesus cast His Gospel throughout the world.**

*Rev 2:2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil (the birds).*

**See Acts 8:18-24**

*And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them liars.*

**Acts 15.**

**Like the Sower's seed that fell on the stony ground that immediately sprang up, but then burned up because they had no root, the early church (Ephesus) had also suffered this phenomenon.**

**Examples**

**See John 6:53-66**

***1Jn 2:19*** *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

**1Ti 1:18** This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,  
**1Ti 1:19** having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,  
**1Ti 1:20** of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

**Rev 2:3** and you have persevered and have patience and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

**The church of Ephesus (Apostolic church age) was not stolen away by the birds of the air, were not those who sprang up right away but had no root, and they were commended for this. BUT Jesus then rebuked them because they had "fallen" from where they once were! I would propose that just as the seed among the thorns and thistles had sprung up and then got choked out by the world and became unfruitful (not DEAD, but unfruitful), the church at Ephesus had allowed the world to choke out the "First Works". - First and Greatest Commandment.**

**Mat 22:36** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

**Mat 22:37** Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

**Mat 22:38** This is the first and great commandment.

**Mat 22:39** And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

**Mat 22:40** On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

**1Cor 13 tells us that without love there is no fruit....**

**They were being called to repent and return to their first love so that they could be healed and bear fruit.**

**Rev 2:7** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is during the Paradise of God."

**Mat 13:23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

**Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**

**Mat 13:24** Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

**Mat 13:25** but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and

*went his way.*

*Mat 13:26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.*

*Mat 13:27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not so good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'*

*Mat 13:28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'*

*Mat 13:29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.*

*Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "*

### **Interpretation:**

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

*Mat 13:38 The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.*

*Mat 13:39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*

*Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.*

*Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,*

*Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

*Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

### **Letter to Smyrna**

*Rev 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*

*Rev 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan.*

*Rev 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." ' ' "*

### **Openers:**

*Mat 13:24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.*

*Mat 13:25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.*

*Rev 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:*

**Life and Death,  
Wheat and Tares,  
Sustenance and Poison,**

**The "Man" -Jesus- who sowed life (good seed) saw His field infiltrated by the enemy with death (tares).**

**The Church at Smyrna (Persecuted Church Age) also had two groups:**

*Rev 2:9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich).*

*...and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not but are a synagogue of Satan.*

**Notice the persecution of the first group was caused by the second group! Just like the tares in the parable of the Sower attempt to kill off the wheat by choking off the sustenance and minerals at the root level, and then spread poison seed in the field to kill future wheat crops, the "Synagogue of Satan" was attempting to kill the early church fruit and poison its' future crop.**

**As we discussed a few weeks ago in the letter to Pergamos, under Pax Romana the Jews were exempt from religious persecution as was their supposed sub-sect, Christianity. As the Judaizes intensified their persecution of the Church to reject Salvation by Faith alone in Jesus and His cross and resurrection, *like they did*, Christianity was pushed out of the protected window of Pax Romana and persecution began full scale.**

**To the world, the Synagogue of Satan looked like the real deal. They had the Law, the trappings, the language, the rituals, even the look of Godliness, but were enemy plants with poison fruit, whose sole intent was to destroy the Church of Jesus Christ and poison its' future.**

**Apostle Paul's journey to conversion began in full-on persecution and destruction of the church, with full authority of the Jewish leadership....**

**Just as the landowner did not immediately root out the tares in the field,**  
*Mat 13:40 Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.*

*Mat 13:41 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,*

*Mat 13:42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

**Jesus did not immediately take down the synagogue of Satan in the Smyrna**

### **letter (Persecuted Church age).**

*Rev 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.*

### **But He did tell them that they would be victorious in the end.**

*.....Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*Rev 2:11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."*

### **Just as the wheat would be a glorious crop in the end...**

*Mat 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

*Mat 13:31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,*

*Mat 13:32 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."*

**The tiny mustard seed, designed to be an herb bush, was shown to grow into an unnatural monstrosity so large that even the "birds of the air" - emissaries of Satan - would be comfortable nesting in its' branches. They would be so secure that they would breed their offspring there...**

**As we discussed during our Pergamos letter, Pergamos was the compromising church. They allowed the world to infiltrate them to the point where compromise was the accepted norm.**

*Rev 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:*

*Rev 2:13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*

*Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have 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.*

*Rev 2:15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*

*Rev 2:16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

*Rev 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a*

*white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it." ' "*

### **Openers:**

*Mat 13:31* Another parable He put forth to them, saying: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,*

*Mat 13:32* which *indeed is the least of all the seeds.*

**When the Man - Jesus- plants mustard seed what does He expect to get?**

**Mustard!**

**What happens when the man doesn't get the fruit (or in this case herb) He desires?**

*Mar 11:12* Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

*Mar 11:13* And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

*Mar 11:14* In response Jesus said to it, *"Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."* And His disciples heard it.

**Mat 7:16** *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?*

*Mat 7:17* *Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.*

*Mat 7:18* *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*

*Mat 7:19* *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

**An unnatural monstrosity, or a natural tree that refuses to bear fruit gets cut down!**

*Rev 2:12* *"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:*

**The Church of Pergamos (Compromising Church Age) opens with a vision of Jesus holding the sharp two-edged sword! The Sword of the Spirit- The Word of God - is an offensive weapon to cut down compromise, and Jesus is shown with the Sword in His hand, ready to use it!**

*Rev 2:16* *Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

**Let the Holy Spirit convict us of sin and compromise, or else Jesus will cut it out at the root!**

**Jesus commended Ephesus for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans, but berated Pergamos for holding the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing He hates!**

**The Mustard Seed Parable prophesies the growth of the church into a massive tree of compromise while at the same time having pockets of commendable things.**

*Rev 2:13* *"I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.*

**The good news is that there is still a call to repentance and a promise for those that do repent.**

Rev 2:16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev 2:17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*."