

## **THE HARVEST IS THE END OF THE AGE**

We will read the parable of the Wheat and Tares from Matt 13.

Matt 13: (NKJV) 24 ¶ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 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?' 29 "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 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.'"

Denominational Christians generally take this parable to be referring to a future coming of Christ with his literal angels for a separation and judgment of the righteous and the wicked, at the beginning of the 1,000 years. However, commentators have trouble getting specific in their explanations as they understand the Great White Throne judgment of Rev 20:11, 12 as taking place at the end of the 1,000 years. It is impossible for them to rationally resolve the two passages and explain how and when eternal judgment of individuals takes place.

Today's Watchtower Organization currently teaches that Christ's invisible presence and reign began in 1914. They believe that the Harvest began in 1919, when the "wheat," began to be freed from the "tares," or false Christians. Christ Jesus inspected the various religious organizations on earth, and in 1919, after cleansing those persons affiliated with the Watch Tower Society from religious and worldly defilement, he appointed them to be the "faithful and discrete slave" and his "sole visible channel, through whom alone spiritual instruction was to come"

Yet if the Watchtower Organization truly passed Jesus' inspection in `1919, than how is it that anyone who today embraces those old 1919 views would be considered a TARE, an Apostate, yes an evil slave?

## **TO UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL HARVEST, YOU MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE JEWISH HARVEST**

A major reason why Christians generally do not understand the Gospel Harvest is because they do not understand the Jewish Harvest. Only by first clearly understanding the Jewish Harvest, can the Gospel Harvest be understood.

Let's take a look back in time to the Jewish Harvest.

## **A JEWISH HARVEST WORK**

### **Is there evidence from the Bible to show that a Jewish Harvest work was going on at the end of the Jewish Age?**

In John 4:35 (NKJV), Jesus himself said:

"35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

So by Jesus' own words, we see that a harvest work was going on in his day, at the end of the Jewish Age.

### **Who participated in this Jewish Harvest work?**

Lu 10:1-2 (NKJV) "1 ¶ After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Not only was a Harvest work going on in Jesus day, but he sent out the 12 and the 70 as reapers to engage in that harvest work and he spoke of the need for more laborers to enter into the work. And after Pentecost, many reapers in the early Church would be engaging in this Jewish Harvest work.

## **SOWING AND REAPING**

### **What type of work goes on during a Harvest?**

#### **Is it SOWING or REAPING?**

John 4:36-38 (NKJV) 36 "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.""

Jesus clearly said to his disciples, "I have sent you to reap." But who are these "others" who "have labored" that Jesus speaks of?

The patriarchs and prophets and other holy men of the Old Testament were the ones who sowed over the previous centuries of the Jewish Age. John the Baptist was the last of these sowers. The disciples reaped the fruits of these centuries of effort by the sowers.

We see a similar thought in Paul's words in

Ga 3:24-25 (NKJV) "24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

So under the guidance of the tutor, the Mosaic Law, the Old Testament holy men sowed seeds for the coming Jewish Harvest. Jesus would be the Chief Reaper, sending forth under-reapers, his disciples into the wheat field to reap the results of the labors of others from centuries past. Rather than make new wheat, the Lord focused on finding those who were already true wheat.

### **SYMBOLS OF THE JEWISH HARVEST**

Let's take a closer look at the symbols of the Jewish Harvest.

John the Baptist spoke of Jesus...

Matt 3:11-12 (NKJV) "11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 "His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.""

**Chaff:** The dry husk or protective casing surrounding the grain of wheat, which once it is removed it is called chaff. Chaff is inedible to humans.

The Chaff represented the nominal Jewish nation of Israel. It was inedible. It could not provide spiritual nourishment and understanding. It was burned with unquenchable **fire**, representing the complete destruction of the Jewish Nation in AD 70 by the Roman armies.

When the Romans destroyed Israel's political and religious systems, the chaff, the Jewish people, ceased from all pretention to divine favor as the triumphing Kingdom of God. They were not physically destroyed (though of course many lives were lost in their trouble), but were cut off from all Kingdom favors in which previously they trusted and boasted.

Israelites indeed, as well as imitation Israelites, constituted the Jewish or Fleshly House of Israel. Only the true Israelites were selected and gathered into the gospel garner, and honored with the truths belonging to the Gospel age. The **wheat** represented the faithful Jews accepting Christ and the Harvest Message then due, separating from the Nominal Jewish Nation.

**Threshing** is the process of separating or loosening the edible wheat grain from the inedible husks or chaff that surrounds it.

A threshing floor is a specially flattened surface, usually circular and paved, where a farmer would thresh the grain harvest by making oxen walk in circles, crushing the grain on a hard surface with their hoofs. Often times the oxen pulled threshing instruments that speeded up the threshing process.

John the Baptist told us that, (Matt 13:12) "He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor." So this process would completely succeed in separating out the faithful from the nominal Jews.

**Winnowing fan or fork** was used to separate the wheat from the chaff.

In Biblical times, it was a fan shaped shovel used to throw a pile of crushed wheat into the air. The wind blows away the lighter chaff, while the heavier wheat grains fall back down for recovery.

The Winnowing fork represents the Harvest Truth then due, which is what separated the true from the false, the wheat from the chaff.

**Barn or Garner:** The edible wheat was gathered and stored in the garner or barn. The barn represents the association of Christian Jews in the early church.

## **JEWISH HARVEST SUMMARY**

Chief Reaper = Jesus

Reapers = Disciples

Wheat = Jews accepting Christ and the Harvest Message then due, separating from the Nominal Jewish Nation

Chaff – Jews rejecting Christ. Nominal Jewish Nation destroyed

Winnowing Fan – Truth (separated wheat from Chaff)

Barn – Association of Brethren together in early church

## **DATES OF THE JEWISH HARVEST**

**AD 29** – Jesus was baptized and he begins the Jewish Harvest work as the Bridegroom and reaper. Jesus came not to the true Israelites only, but to the entire Jewish nation. (John 1:11) The grains of ripe wheat fit for the garner (the Gospel dispensation) were few, and that the great mass was wheat merely in appearance--in reality only "chaff."

**AD 33** - Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, assuming the office of King. In Matt 23:38, he pronounced to the nation, "Your house is left unto you desolate." Jesus cut off in the midst of the 70th week. – Dan 9:27

**AD 36** - 3 ½ additional years of favor to the end of the 70th week.

**AD 70** - The Romans destroyed the Jewish nation, including their Temple and their Political and Religious Systems.

**AD 136** – The Jewish Bar Kokhba revolt was crushed by the Roman legions, after which all Jews, including Christians were barred from entering Jerusalem. This effectively ended any remaining harvest work going on in Jerusalem.

Understand the Jewish Harvest, gives us the framework for understanding the Gospel Harvest.

## **GOSPEL HARVEST**

Let us first compare the various symbols of the Jewish Harvest and Gospel Harvest to note the similarities and differences.

JEWISH HARVEST	GOSPEL HARVEST
Chief Reaper	Chief Reaper
Under Reapers	Under Reapers (called angels)
Wheat	Wheat
Chaff	Tares
Winnowing Fan	Sickle
Barn	Barn

The differences are that instead of chaff, the Gospel Harvest has tares. Instead of a Winnowing Fan, the Gospel Harvest has a Sickle.

Let's talk about **Tares**.

Look at the picture above and particularly the middle stalk. Do you think that is wheat or a tare? Answer: it is a baby tare yet a baby wheat stalk looks exactly the same. In fact they're indistinguishable. The only way to tell the difference is when they both mature in the Spring.

Looking at the mature tare and wheat in the picture below, we can see there is a marked difference. The tare on the left is light and lacks substance but the wheat on the right is heavy and bears fruit (grain). There are tiny black seeds inside the tares and if you eat it, it can cause dizziness and nausea. Also notice that the tare stands straight up and proud while the wheat bows from the weight of the fruit in humility. Talk about the perfect physical and spiritual contrast between the wheat and the tare. One gives life, the other kills.

Easton's Bible Dictionary describes "tares" as follows:

"the bearded darnel, mentioned only in Matt. 13:25-30... the seeds of which are a strong soporific [sleep inducing] poison."

Botanical.com - When Darnel has been given medicinally in a harmful quantity, it is recorded to have produced all the symptoms of drunkenness: a general trembling, followed by inability to walk, hindered speech and vomiting. For this reason the French call Darnel: '*Ivraie*,' from *Ivre* (drunkenness); the word Darnel is itself of French origin and testifies to its intoxicating qualities, being derived from an old French word *Darne*, signifying stupefied.

<http://botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/g/grasse34.html#dar>

The symbolic ramifications are inescapable.

Rev 17: 4 (AV) "And the woman ... having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"

The **Sickle** is a grain harvesting tools, consisting of a metal blade, usually curved, attached to a short wooden handle. The inside of the blade's curve is sharp, so that the user can swing it against the base of the crop, catching the stems in the curve and slicing them at the same time. The material to be cut may be held in a bunch in the other hand (for example when reaping),

Heb 4:12 – "For the word of God is... sharper than any two-edged sword" NKJV

Let us now read the explanation that Jesus provided for the Matt 13 parable of the Wheat and the Tares.

Matt 13:36-43 (NKJV) "36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." 37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 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*. 39 "The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. 40 "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. 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, 42 "and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 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!"

Now let's take each symbol, one at a time to get a clearer understanding of the Interpretation.

**Chief Reaper** = Jesus

Matt 13:37 "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man."

Rev 14:14-15 – "Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ..."Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." NKJV

**Reapers** / Angels = Brethren (on both side of the vail)

**Why do we say this when vs 39 says...**

**Matt 13:39 (NKJV) "the reapers are the angels"?**

This word for messengers, Strongs 32 can broadly apply to earthly or heavenly messengers. For example

Matt 11:10 - This is he [John the Baptist], of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, Who shall prepare thy way before thee. ASV

Matt 24:31 – "And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." NKJV

Nobody believes that the elect are gathered out of literal heaven. Heaven here is symbolic of the ecclesiastical church system heavens. During the Gospel Harvest, the elect, or true wheat, are gathered out of the denominational church systems.

**Wheat** = Christians accepting our Returned Lord and His Harvest Message, separating themselves from the Nominal Systems.

Matt 13:37 (NKJV) "good seeds are the sons of the kingdom"

Just like the wheat of the Jewish Harvest were the disciples and brethren associated together in the early Church; so in the Gospel Harvest, the wheat are the brethren associated together around the present Harvest Truths.

**Tares** = Christians rejecting our returned Lord and His Harvest Message. Nominal Systems destroyed.

Tares compared to Chaff

Chaff

Nominal Jewish Nation

Wheat

Nominal Christian Churches

The bad part of Wheat  
Inedible  
Burned with fire

Imitation Wheat  
Sleep inducing, Poisonous  
Burned with fire

1) The Tares are similar to the Chaff. The Chaff of the Jewish Harvest represented the **nominal** Jewish nation of Israel. So the Tares represent the nominal Christian denominations.

2) The tares are different than the chaff, in that the tares are imitation wheat. They never were truly spirit begotten Christians, except in pretense.

3) The chaff was inedible. It could not provide spiritual nourishment and understanding. On the other hand, the tares pretended to provide nourishment, but is rather sleep inducing and poisonous.

4) Both the Chaff and Tares are burned with fire, representing both the destruction of the Jewish Nation and the future destruction of the Nominal Systems.

**Sickle** = Truth (separates wheat from tares)

Heb 4:12 – “For the word of God is... sharper than any two-edged sword” NKJV

**Barn** = Association of brethren together in the Harvest Church and ultimately associated together in the Heavenly Barn as the Bride of Christ.

The heavenly barn is alluded to by Jesus statement:

Matt 13:43 (NKJV) "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

Yet, just as in the Jewish Harvest, there are reapers working on this side of the veil.

Rev 14:13 (NKJV) says, “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Those who die “from now on... their works follow them.” The “**from now on**” is the start of the Gospel Age harvest mentioned in the next verse (Rev. 14:14).

Rev 14:14 – “And I saw, and behold, a white cloud; and on the cloud (I saw) one sitting like unto a son of man



Once the harvest began in 1874, any who die in the Lord after this, "their works will follow them." On both sides of the veil reapers are using sickles of Truth to gather the wheat into the barn and tares into bundles for burning. (Matthew 13:30, 41)

So then, the barn represents our present association together (like the early church in the Jewish Harvest), but ultimately it pictures our association together in heaven. The Truth has the effect of defensively drawing these religious systems (built on error and confusion) more tightly into their denominational bundles.

Rev 18:4,5 (NKJV ) "And I heard another voice from heaven saying,"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."

Yet the separation would not take place by shunning, casting off or disfellowshipping others. The true wheat would leave the tares "Come out of her, my people."

Judging of hearts and motives is beyond our power, yet is the very thing which the various denominational churches have all along endeavored to accomplish. They have set up rigorous doctrinal tests of human manufacture to test the wheat, and to keep out as tares or heretics; yet with the opposite effect. They have instead developed many tares and choked and separated the wheat.

In this time of separation, the Lord's people would not be in ignorance.

1 Thess. 5:4 "Ye, brethren, are not in darkness [nor sleep] that that day should overtake you as a thief."

We stand not in denominational bondage and bundles.

(Ga 5:1 NKJV) "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

(Joh 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

The destruction of the tares does not imply the destruction of individuals, but rather their false pretensions. When burned, these tares will be recognized in their true character--as members of the world, and will no longer imitate Christians, as nominal members of Christ's Church.

At the final close of the Gospel Age, the denominational churches will crumble, the tares "will be consumed with fire," that is they will cease to be tares; they will cease to deceive either themselves or others; they will cease to apply to themselves the exceeding great and precious promises which belong only to the overcoming saints;

As the wheat are sowed from truth, the tares are sowed from error.

Measuring themselves with the majority in the nominal church, the tares feel a sense of security and satisfaction, as well as certainty that they have done nothing so bad to justify hell. Though naturally inclined to recognize that have never made of full consecration of their lives to the Lord, the great TARE multitude have been so thoroughly and so often assured that they are Christians, that they could scarcely be expected to know to the contrary. In comparison, the little flock of wheat appears to be extremists and fanatics.

Luke 17:31-32 (NKJV) "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife.

Luke 17:37 "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the eagles will gather."

Luke 12:35-37 – "Let your loins be girded, and the lamps burning, and ye like to men waiting for their lord, when he shall return out of the wedding feasts, that he having come and knocked, immediately they may open to him. 'Happy those servants, whom the lord, having come, shall find watching; verily I say to you, that he will gird himself, and will cause them to recline (at meat), and having come near, will minister to them;'" YLT

Eph 6:14 (NKJV) "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth"

Luke 12:42 (NKJV) "And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

Rev 1:20 (ASV) "the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand... are the angels of the seven churches:"

Rev 12:1 (ASV) "And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars;"

12 Stars = 12 Apostles

Conclusion: Stars = Men who are light bearers of truth

7 Stars = 7 Angels to the 7 Churches

Conclusion: 7 stars are 7 men who are the 7 light bearers to the 7 churches