

The Current Age (continued):

MATTHEW 13 gives us the Kingdom Parables, in which Jesus describes the characteristics of the Kingdom in the timeframe between His First and Second Comings. This is also the church age in which we live.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

MATTHEW 13 (vv31,32) **The Parable of the Mustard Seed** - This is now the third mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven; the church and the kingdom are NOT identical. The mustard plant is more of a shrub than a tree, and Jesus is speaking here of abnormal growth. Birds do not typically seek to nest in mustard plants. The word 'lodge' is *kataskēnoō* - to pitch one's tent, to fix one's abode, to dwell.

MARK 4:13 *'And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?'"* Jesus interprets both the **Parable of the Sower** and the parable of the **Wheat and Tares** in order that we would understand all the rest. Both the children of God and of Satan will grow side by side in the interim phase of the Kingdom, the angels will separate them at the 2nd Coming of Jesus. As we use Jesus' keys He has given to interpret, the meaning of this parable is clearly a warning for all who hear it. The Kingdom of Heaven is the sphere where God's rule is acknowledged; however, this has two aspects:

1. **outward profession (both genuine and fake)**
2. **inner reality.**

The Kingdom of Heaven in its interim phase includes genuine believers and imposters MATTHEW 7:21; LUKE 6:46; TITUS 1:16.

(v32) *'Which indeed is the least of all seeds...'* to His listeners this was known as being proverbially small. Anyone who speaks today of sunrise or sunset is using a similar figure of speech. *'...the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches...'* the same Greek word is used in (v4) and translated *'fowls.'* Jesus told us already that the birds represent *'the wicked one'* - Satan. Throughout the Bible birds often have an evil connotation GENESIS 15:7-11; 40:16-19; REVELATION 18:1,2. In the age we live in today, there are false and true people who profess Jesus Christ. 'Christendom' includes the **Roman Catholic Church** which preaches a works-based salvation; **Mormons**, **Jehovah Witnesses**, and many other cults who deny the Deity of Jesus. GALATIANS 2:15,16; 1:1-9 *'As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.'* Christendom has become *'...a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'* (REVELATION 18:2)

By telling the **Parable of the Mustard Seed**, Jesus is warning us that the Kingdom of Heaven, those who profess knowing God, would become so abnormally large that Satan and his ministers would be a part of it.

JUDE 1:1-4, 17-25; 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-15; 6:14-18 Watch for evil in the church, and by the Spirit of God, contend earnestly for the true faith in Christ.

The Parable of the Leaven

MATTHEW 13:33 *'Another parable spake He unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.'* many teach that this parable speaks of the Gospel permeating the world until we all get saved, but Scripture doesn't teach that nor does our experience in this world.

EXODUS 12:15-17 leaven (yeast) is used over **ninety times** in the Bible and is always linked with sin, and Jesus' listeners would have understood this. Leaven was to be removed from the houses during the Feast of Unleavened Bread; if anyone ate what was leavened they were to be cut off from Israel. 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-8 *'Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.'*

MATTHEW 16:12; MARK 8:13-21 *'And He charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.'* The Parable of the Leaven warns us of the permeating power of evil in the Kingdom of Heaven today.

'...which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.' This woman hid the leaven, concealed it in the meal, which was considered a fellowship offering in Israel (see GENESIS 18:1-6). A fellowship offering with leaven (evil) hidden inside; horrific. Jesus is revealing truth about this age before He returns, the church age. This age was entirely hidden from the Old Testament PSALM 78:1,2; EPHESIANS 3:1-21 Be on spiritual guard for leaven.

The Kingdom Parables allow us to understand the times we live in until Jesus returns. God is patient for His creation to repent. 2 PETER 3:1-9 *'The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.'* God desires that all people (He has made all people!) would repent and turn to Jesus. He has great patience. Despite His desire sadly many will perish in their sins MATTHEW 25:46; 7:14. Go in the name and power of Jesus into this world and proclaim Him to all!

MARK 16:15-20 *'the Lord working with them...Amen.'*

End Times

**Studying
The Prophetic
Word Of God**



End Times

**The Current
Age (cont.)**



The Current Age

*Parables of
the Kingdom*

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...



Six of the Seven parables begin with the phrase: 'The kingdom of heaven is like...'

The kingdom of heaven:

➤ Is the sphere where God's rule is acknowledged

1. Outward profession (both genuine & fake)
2. Inner reality

5 Phases of the Kingdom of Heaven

1. Old Testament Phase
 2. 'at hand' Phase
(when the King was present)
 3. Interim Phase
(between Jesus' 1st & 2nd Comings)
 4. Millennial Kingdom Phase
(Christ's 1,000-year reign on earth)
 5. Everlasting Kingdom
- 

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A field of yellow mustard flowers is shown with a semi-transparent dark green overlay. The text "Parable of the Mustard Seed" is centered in white, bold font.

Parable of the Mustard Seed



Mat 13:32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and **lodge** [**nest/perch**] in the branches thereof.

Kataskēnoō {kā-tā-skā-no'-ō}

- to pitch one's tent; to fix one's abode, to dwell



**THE
PARABLE
OF
THE SOWER**



The Wheat And The Tares

Mar 4:13 And He said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?



The kingdom of heaven: Is the sphere where God's rule is acknowledged

Two Aspects to the Kingdom:

1. **Outward profession** (both genuine & phony)
2. **Inner reality**

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will** of My Father which is in heaven.

Luk 6:46 And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and **do not** the things which I say?

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but **in works they deny Him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Mat 13:31,32 The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed...Which indeed is the least of all seeds...

Mat 13:32 ...so that the **birds of the air** come and lodge in the branches thereof.

'birds of the air'

Peteinon {pe-tā-no'n} - birds

Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, **then cometh the wicked one**, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Gen 15:10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

Gen 15:11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Gen 40:19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

According to the infallible Council of Trent—6th Session,
Canon 9: If anyone says that...the sinner is justified by
faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to
cooperate in order to obtain the grace of justification...,
let him be anathema.

Council of Trent...7th Session, Canon 4: If anyone says
that the sacraments of the New Law [canons and decrees
of the Church] are not necessary for salvation
but...without them...men obtain from God through faith
alone the grace of justification...let him be anathema.

(Note: The declarations and anathemas
of the Council of Trent **have
never been revoked.** The
decrees of the Council of Trent are
confirmed by both the Second Vatican
Council (1962-1965) and the official
"Catechism of the Catholic Church"
(1992).)

Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again,
If any man preach any other gospel unto you
than that ye have received, let him be
accursed.

Rev 18:2 ...and is become the habitation of
devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a
cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

2Cor 1:14,15 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...

2Cor 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord...



The Parable of the Leaven

Matt 13:33

Leaven (yeast) is used
over 90x and is always
associated with sin (a symbol
for sin), and Jesus' listeners
would have understood it that
way...

Exod 12:15 ...the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread...that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

1Cor 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Then they understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

— Matthew 16:12 (NASB®)

Mark 8:15 And He charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake He unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Gen 18:6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly **three measures of fine meal**, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

Mat 13:33 The kingdom of heaven is like unto **leaven**, which a woman took, **and hid in three measures of meal**, till the whole was leavened.

Mat 13:35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.

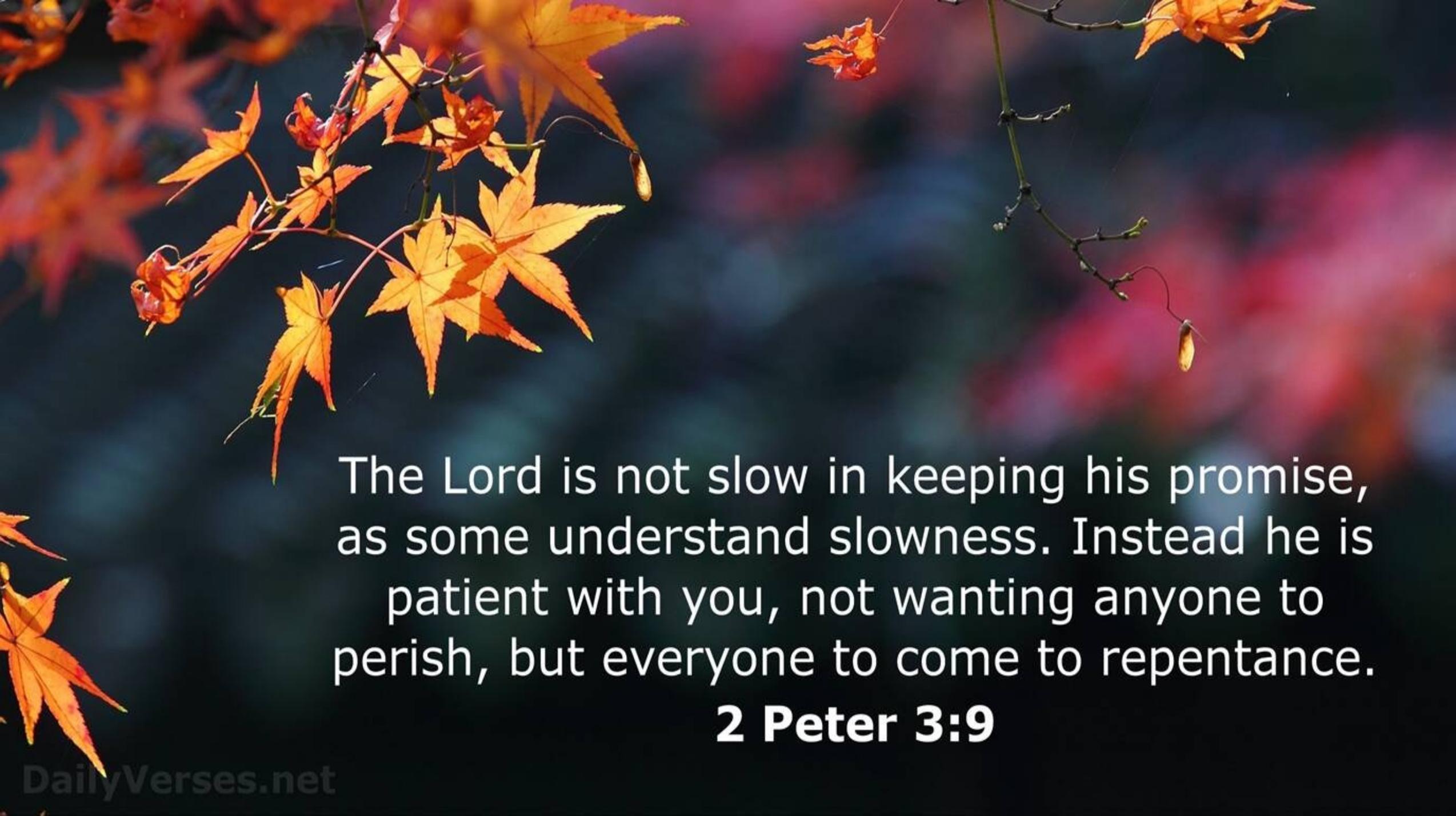
Psalm 78:1,2 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was **not made known** unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of **the same body**, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

A dark green speech bubble is centered on a lighter green background. The entire scene is framed by a blue border. The text inside the bubble is white and reads: "THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...".

THE
KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
IS LIKE...

The image features a close-up of several maple leaves in various stages of autumn color, ranging from bright yellow to deep orange and red. The leaves are attached to thin, dark branches. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blur of similar colors, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall lighting is warm, highlighting the textures of the leaves.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise,
as some understand slowness. Instead he is
patient with you, not wanting anyone to
perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Mat 25:46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Mat 7:14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.



He said to them,
"Go into all the world
and preach the gospel
to all creation."

Mark 16:15

End Times

Israel Reborn

as a

Nation

