



## PROPHECY AGAIN

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### ANALYZING THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES

1. Let us read Matthew 13:24-30 and consider the parable of the wheat and the tares.
2. Both the wheat and the tares are to grow together until when? Matthew 13:30
3. Which event signals that we have come to the time of harvest? Revelation 14:9,10,14-16
4. Note: When the Mark of the Beast is enforced, and individuals make their final decision, then will be manifested who are the wheat and the tares. See Matthew 13:26.
5. Where should the wheat and the tares grow together, according to the context of this parable? Answer: In the field or in the church where the householder's servants or God's servants are in charge. In the parable, the servants of the householder identified the tares. The householder represents God, the servants represent Jesus' apostles. See Matthew 13:27.
6. Meditate upon the following and consider that Jesus is teaching His servants how to treat unconverted people in the church. The parable of the wheat and the tare is not to condone people supporting apostate leaders with their presence, their talents, or means.  
"Has God no living church? He has a church, **but it is the church militant, not the church triumphant. We are sorry that there are defective members, that there are tares amid the wheat.**" {TM 45.1}

**"Although in our churches, that claim to believe advanced truth, there are those who are faulty and erring, as tares among the wheat, God is long-suffering and patient...Tares and wheat are to grow together till the harvest; when the wheat comes to its full growth and development, and because of its character when ripened, it will be fully distinguished from the tares".** {TM 45.2} **"But Christ has given special light as to how to deal with those who are erring, and with those who are unconverted in the church.** There is to be no spasmodic, zealous, hasty action taken by church members in cutting off those they may think defective in character." {TM 46.1}

#### Judas Given Opportunities

**"Jesus knew that Judas was defective in character, but notwithstanding this, He accepted him as one of the disciples, and gave him the same opportunities and privileges that He gave to the others whom He had chosen.** Judas was left without excuse in the evil course he afterward pursued. **Judas might have become a doer of the word, as were eventually Peter and James and John and the other disciples.** Jesus gave precious lessons of instruction, **so that those who were associated with Him might have been converted, and have no need of clinging to the defects that marred their characters.**" {TM 46.2}

7a. How may we know the church that we must grow in? Who must be present in the church? Matthew 13:30,39.

7b. The reapers are angels. Angels represent supernatural beings and God's messengers with present-truth messages. Galatians 4:14.

8. Which angels prepare people for the harvest of everlasting life? Which angels, if rejected, will prepare people for damnation? Revelation 14:6-12,14-20

9. Note: We can know whether we should remain in a local church if the leaders are living the principles of the three angels' messages and are teaching the three angels' messages publicly. **Meditate upon John 6:66-70.**

"I was shown the necessity of those who believe that we are having the last message of mercy, being separate from those who are daily imbibing new errors. **I saw that neither young nor old should attend their meetings; for it is wrong to thus encourage them while they teach error that is a deadly poison to the soul and teach for doctrines the commandments of men.** The influence of such gatherings is not good. If God has delivered us from such darkness and error, we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith He has set us free and rejoice in the truth. **God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy,** to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness." {EW 124.3}

9b. Note: If the wheat and tares should grow where the leaders are living a lie and teaching heresy, truth mixed with error, then we should not do evangelism and call people from Babylon.

10. What question did the servants of the householder ask? Matthew 13:28

11. What was the response? Matthew 13:29

12a. Who are the tares? Matthew 13:38

**"The tares represent a class who are the fruit or embodiment of error, of false principles."** {COL 70.3}

12b. Note: Since people are classed as tares because they were taught to believe lies and false doctrines, these people cannot remain in churches where the leaders continue to teach heresy and lower God's standards, and believe that they will become wheat. It is impossible!

**"The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, to have all the advantage of sun and shower..."** {COL 74.4}

12c. **"They saw that separation was an absolute necessity if they would obey the word of God.** They dared not tolerate errors fatal to their own souls, **and set an example which would imperil the faith of their children and children's children.** To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. **If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war.**" {GC 45.3}

**“Well would it be for the church and the world if the principles that actuated those steadfast souls were revived in the hearts of God’s professed people. There is an alarming indifference in regard to the doctrines which are the pillars of the Christian faith. The opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, these are not of vital importance.** This degeneracy is strengthening the hands of the agents of Satan, so that false theories and fatal delusions which the faithful in ages past imperiled their lives to resist and expose, are now regarded with favor by thousands who claim to be followers of Christ.” {GC 46.1}

**12d.** Meditate upon **Matthew 15:9-14.** “The disciples noted the rage of the spies as their false teaching was exposed. They saw the angry looks, and heard the half-muttered words of dissatisfaction and revenge. Forgetting how often Christ had given evidence that He read the heart as an open book, they told Him of the effect of His words. **Hoping that He might conciliate the enraged officials,** they said to Jesus, ‘Knowest Thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?’” {DA 398.1}

**13.** Will some tares have the opportunity to become wheat? \_\_\_\_\_

“The Savior does not point forward to a time when **all the tares** become wheat.” {COL 75.1}

**14a.** Who are the people that are classed as tares? Matthew 13:38 \_\_\_\_\_

**14b.** Note: Since the tares are children of Satan, Satan was once a tare in heaven. Since the wheat and tares must grow together, under what type of leadership was Lucifer permitted to grow, before his probation closed? \_\_\_\_\_

**“The teaching of this parable is illustrated in God’s own dealing with men and angels.** Satan is a deceiver. When he sinned in heaven, even the loyal angels did not fully discern his character. This was why God did not at once destroy Satan. Had He done so, the holy angels would not have perceived the justice and love of God. A doubt of God’s goodness would have been as evil seed that would yield the bitter fruit of sin and woe. **Therefore the author of evil was spared, fully to develop his character.** Through long ages God has borne the anguish of beholding the work of evil, He has given the infinite Gift of Calvary, rather than leave any to be deceived by the misrepresentations of the wicked one; for the tares could not be plucked up without danger of uprooting the precious grain. And shall we not be as forbearing toward our fellow men as the Lord of heaven and earth is toward Satan? {COL 72.2}

The world has no right to doubt the truth of Christianity because there are unworthy members in the church, nor should Christians become disheartened because of these false brethren. **How was it with the early church? Ananias and Sapphira joined themselves to the disciples. Simon Magus was baptized. Demas, who forsook Paul, had been counted a believer. Judas Iscariot was numbered with the apostles.** The Redeemer does not want to lose one soul; His experience with Judas is recorded to show His long patience with perverse human nature; and He bids us bear with it as He has borne. He has said that false brethren will be found in the church till the close of time.” {COL 72.3}

**15a.** Who are the wheat, the good seed? Matthew 13:38 \_\_\_\_\_

**15b.** The wheat are children of God. Jesus was a wheat during His earthly ministry. Jesus says let both wheat and tares grow together. What happened to Jesus as He tried to grow among the apostate church leaders? John 11:47-53 \_\_\_\_\_

**15c.** What happened to the following individuals (wheat) as they tried to grow among the apostate Jewish church leaders (tares)? John 9:32-38; John 12:9-11; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 5:17,18,40 \_\_\_\_\_

**15d.** All throughout history, what happened to God’s saints, the wheat, that tried to grow among apostate church leaders? \_\_\_\_\_

“Notwithstanding Christ’s warning, **men have sought to uproot the tares. To punish those who were supposed to be evildoers, the church has had recourse to the civil power. Those who differed from the established doctrines have been imprisoned, put to torture and to death, at the instigation of men who claimed to be acting under the sanction of Christ.** But it is the spirit of Satan, not the Spirit of Christ, that inspires such acts. This is Satan’s own method of bringing the world under his dominion. God has been misrepresented through the church by this way of dealing with those supposed to be heretics.” {COL 74.1}

**16.** Note: The only time the wheat is allowed to grow among apostate church leaders is when the wheat remain silent and compromise with the leaders and the people in sin. By doing this, the wheat becomes tares. What does the Lord say? \_\_\_\_\_

“What astonishing deception and fearful blindness had, like a dark cloud, covered Israel! This blindness and apostasy had not closed about them suddenly; it had come upon them gradually as they had not heeded the word of reproof and warning which the Lord had sent to them because of their pride and their sins. **And now, in this fearful crisis, in the presence of the idolatrous priests and the apostate king,** they remained neutral. **If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God.**” {3T 280.3}

**17.** How can the wheat give opportunities to the tares in the churches to become wheat? Acts 2:36-47 \_\_\_\_\_

**18.** Our focus must be on how we can become wheat and remain so. What produces the wheat? Matthew 13:24 \_\_\_\_\_

**19.** What is the good seed likened unto? Luke 8:11 \_\_\_\_\_

**20.** We may have the word of God today and still not be saved. We may be a wheat today, but we must bear fruit in order to be saved. See John 12:24.

**21.** What must we do before we can bear fruit and be saved? John 12:24; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 15:31 \_\_\_\_\_

**22.** How are the children of God differentiated from the children of Satan (the wheat and the tares)? 1 John 3:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

**23.** Note: The wheat must grow, according to Matthew 13:30. Meditate upon the following scriptures: 1 Peter 2:1,2; Isaiah 28:9-12; Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Luke 2:40.

“Guard jealously your hours for prayer, Bible study, and self-examination. Set aside a portion of each day for a study of the Scriptures and communion with God. **Thus you will obtain spiritual strength, and will grow in favor with God.** He alone can give you noble aspirations; He alone can fashion the character after the divine similitude. Draw near to Him in earnest prayer, and He will fill your hearts with high and holy purposes, and with deep, earnest longings for purity and clearness of thought.” {GW 100.1}