

THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND DARNEL

“Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will say to the reapers, Gather the darnel first and bind it in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my granary.”

– Matthew 13:30

In Jesus’ parable, the field represents the world, the wheat symbolizes the children of God, and the darnel, or weeds, represent the children of Satan. The enemy who sowed the darnel is the devil. The harvest marks the end of the age, and the reapers are angels sent by Jesus to separate the righteous from the wicked.

THE HARVEST AT THE END OF THE AGE

“Just as the darnel (weeds resembling wheat) is gathered and burned with fire, so it will be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of offense [persons by whom others are drawn into error or sin] and all who do iniquity and act wickedly, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and grinding of teeth. Then will the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God) shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

– Matthew 13:40-43

In this parable, Jesus reveals a profound truth: the darnel, or children of Satan, are gathered first—not the wheat, or children of God. This contradicts the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture, which suggests that believers will be taken out of the world before the final tribulation. Instead, Jesus clearly states that His followers will remain until after the children of Satan are removed.

“And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I should not lose any of all that He has given Me, but that I should give new life and raise [them all] up at the last day.”

– John 6:39

THE CHILDREN OF SATAN

The darnel represents those who align with the devil during the Great Tribulation, including those who take the mark of the beast and follow the anti-Christ.

“Whoever pays homage to the beast and his statue and permits the [beast's] stamp (mark, inscription) to be put on his forehead or on his hand, he too shall [have to] drink of the

wine of God's indignation and wrath, poured undiluted into the cup of His anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”

– Revelation 14:9-10

“And the beast was seized and overpowered, and with him the false prophet who in his presence had worked wonders and performed miracles by which he led astray those who had accepted or permitted to be placed upon them the stamp (mark) of the beast and those who paid homage and gave divine honors to his statue. Both of them were hurled alive into the fiery lake that burns and blazes with brimstone.”

– Revelation 19:20

WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

The Bible does not provide a detailed description of the mark of the beast. It is a mark so damning that those who take it are beyond redemption, yet its exact nature is not specified. Similarly, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the only unforgivable sin, is not explicitly defined.

“Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy (every evil, abusive, injurious speaking, or indignity against sacred things) can be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the [Holy] Spirit shall not and cannot be forgiven.”

– Matthew 12:31

This ambiguity suggests that these sins are not able to be committed by humans but instead apply only to the fallen angels, who are the true children of Satan.

THE DARNEL AND THE FALLEN ANGELS

The Bible teaches that fallen angels, cast out of heaven, now dwell on earth.

“His tail swept [across the sky] and dragged down a third of the stars and flung them to the earth.”

– Revelation 12:4

“Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels went forth to battle with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought. But they were defeated, and there was no room found for them in heaven any longer.”

– Revelation 12:7-8

Though these fallen angels may appear human, they are distinct from mankind.

“Do not forget or neglect or refuse to extend hospitality to strangers [in the brotherhood—being friendly, cordial, and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously], for through it some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

– Hebrews 13:2

WHO WILL BE SAVED?

Jesus made it clear that He came to save all humankind.

“[Just as] You have granted Him power and authority over all flesh (all humankind), [now glorify Him] so that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him.”

– John 17:2

The sacrifice of Jesus ensures that all people have the opportunity for salvation.

“For God has consigned (penned up) all men to disobedience, only that He may have mercy on them all [alike].”

– Romans 11:32

On Judgment Day, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord, fulfilling God’s will that all men be saved.

“For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God [acknowledge Him to His honor and to His praise].”

– Romans 14:11

JUDAS: DARNEL, NOT WHEAT

Jesus forgave all, including His killers, yet He did not forgive Judas.

“Jesus answered them, Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And [yet] one of you is a devil (of the evil one and a false accuser).”

– John 6:70

Judas was not wheat; he was darnel. He appeared human but was a devil, a fallen angel who aligned with Satan’s plan.

CONCLUSION

The parable of the Wheat and Darnel reveals that fallen angels, the children of Satan, are living among us. They will be gathered first and cast into the fire, while the children of God, the wheat, will shine in the kingdom of their Father.

This truth underscores the victorious power of Christ's sacrifice and His ultimate plan for humanity. Jesus ensures that no human will be lost, and His kingdom will be a place of eternal glory for His children. Let us rest in the assurance of His love and His ultimate triumph.