

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

153- Jesus Teaches the People in Parables- Part 9
The Parable of the Tares and the Wheat- Part 2

Church May 17, 2026

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25 But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.

26 But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

27 The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28 And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.

30 Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37 And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

40 So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the

kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now as I told you last Time- the Purpose of Jesus teaching in these Parables here in **Matthew 13**- is to make a Difference; a Distinction; a Separation between those God has chosen for Salvation and those God has chosen to leave to themselves. And that's why He said this in verse 11:

To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

... so, part of what it means to be chosen by God- is that we must learn and understand what Jesus was talking about in these Parables.

Now the Subject of all seven of these Parables in **Matthew 13**- including the "mini-Parable" in verses 51&52- is the "*Kingdom of Heaven*"- in *WHAT* the Kingdom is; *HOW* we are to *understand* this new Kingdom; and *HOW* genuinely saved people will relate to it.

And so far- we have learned that the "*Parable of the Tares and the Wheat*" has to do with two Groups of people:

1. The "sons of the Kingdom"
2. The "sons of the evil one"

... as well as *HOW* and *WHEN* God is going to *purify* the Earth!

We also learned that the Son of Man planted good Seed in the Field (Earth)- while the Enemy sowed Tares. And, contrary to what we would like to do- it is God's Will to allow BOTH the Wheat and the Tares to grow together- until the "**Time of the Harvest**" (v. 30) or the "**End of the Age**" (v. 40). And at that Time- Jesus will send His Angels to "**gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire...**"- so that the Earth will be *purified* of ALL Evil!

Now as I ended the last Sermon on the "*Parable of the Tares and the Wheat*"- I asked you to ponder two things Jesus said:

1. **Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn. (v.30)**

2. **Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father... (v.43)**

Two words, “FIRST” and “THEN”. FIRST *this* will happen and THEN *that* will happen. So, the *second* thing is *predicated* on the *first* thing happening BEFORE the *second* thing. Jesus said, FIRST the Tares will be *removed* from the Earth and THEN the Righteous will shine forth as the Sun in the Kingdom! That’s the *chronological* Order of the Events that will happen, at “*the Time of the Harvest*” or the “*End of the Age*” from the very Mouth of Jesus Himself.

So, what should we get from this? It is God’s Will to *purify* all three Entities that were polluted with Sin:

1. People
2. The Earth
3. Heaven

... and in this Parable, Jesus teaches us HOW and WHEN the Earth will be purified.

And from this Parable we see that Sin will NOT triumph over Righteousness! Evil will NOT triumph over Good; and Wickedness and Rebellion will NOT triumph over Purity and Obedience! And in “*Alabama English*” that means: the Gospel *triumphs!* And King Jesus *wins!*

So, this Parable does NOT teach about a “Rapture” where the Church is *removed* from the Earth- FIRST- and THEN God will pour out His Wrath on the remaining evil ones. Our Savior clearly teaches the exact OPPOSITE of that! In this Parable, Jesus *infallibly* taught that Jesus Himself will tell the Reapers, “**FIRST- gather (out of His Kingdom) the tares (all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness) and bind them in bundles to burn them up (and will throw them into the furnace of fire...)**!”

And only AFTER the Tares are removed- “**THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father...!**”!

Now, the Fact that the Reapers will remove, “**the sons of the evil one**” **FIRST**; and the Fact that Jesus said the Angels will remove the Tares, “**OUT OF**” His Kingdom; and the Fact that Jesus said the “Field” is the “World” (v. 38)- tells us that the “Kingdom” Jesus is talking about here is NOT Heaven- but the Earth! Because EVERYTHING about this Parable occurs on the Earth!

And that tells us that the *ultimate* Goal of God for this Planet; the Will of God concerning the Earth; and the Decree of God- that He made before He created anything- is:

all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. (Numbers 14:19)

... or ...

the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)

... and this Parable tells us HOW and WHEN that will be accomplished!

God is going to *purify* the Earth by removing ALL Evil! And the ONLY Way to do that- is either through Conversion or by removing ALL evil people! And so, ALL Evil will be removed from the Earth in one of two Ways:

1. Through Salvation- one Soul at a Time- through the Preaching of the Gospel
2. Through the Tares being *forcefully and violently* removed from the Earth

Therefore, we should all pray to that End; and purpose in our Hearts to labor as *diligently*; and as *consistently*; and as *faithfully* as we can- to *yield* ourselves to that Will of God in three Ways:

1. We should Behold the Glory of God that is found the BEST and the MOST in the Person of Jesus Christ
2. We should be so radically changed by beholding that Glory- so that we would find the Fullness of our *own Joy*- in God *alone* being glorified
3. We should care about God's Will; this World; and the people of this World enough- to *exhaust ourselves* in helping to make ALL of the Enemies of Jesus a "Footstool for His Feet" by obeying Jesus and preach the Gospel to everyone

... and we are to do all of that- *regardless* of what may happen to us!

Dear Friends, the entire History of Christianity is one of *unthinkable* Suffering; Pain; and Misery mixed together with "**Joy inexpressible and full of Glory**" (1Peter 1:8)! And from Cover to Cover, we are told to "Endure" but NOT to "Escape"! We have been told to "Be Faithful; Fruitful; and Busy in the Work of the Lord- to the Point of Death"- but we have NEVER been told to be "Safe and Secure"!

Listen to the great Contrast! The historic, orthodox, biblical Church faced the Lions; they were burned to Death; they were crucified; imprisoned; and tortured. And they were NOT delivered! But they sang praises to God as they died! And they thanked God for the Privilege of knowing Jesus Christ- as they starved to Death!

Compare that to the fat, dumb, and happy modern American Church- which AFTER they have enjoyed *unprecedented* Favor and Safety from the Government of the United States for over 250 years; and AFTER they have enjoyed *unprecedented* Prosperity- for two and a half Centuries- for the most part- they are *preaching, teaching, praying, and wanting* to be whisked off into Heaven because of, what? Liberal Democrats? Somebody offended them? It is truly Embarrassing!

For the most part, the Preaching and Teaching of the modern, American Church has produced very nice people, who are neck-deep in Politics; who are opposed to Abortion; who watch Fox News; salute the Flag; and people, who run *hard* after financial and material Prosperity. And they have produced people, who *genuinely* believe that Covetousness and Worldliness are actually Virtues, that need to be *taught, pursued, and obtained!*

But, for the most part, the Preaching and Teaching of the modern, American Church, have NOT produced people, who *hate* Sin! They have NOT produced people, who *love* God MORE than Husband; MORE than WIFE; MORE than Children; and MORE than their own Lives! They have NOT produced people, who would *rejoice* and be *thankful*- if the *decreasing* of themselves would cause the *increasing* of Jesus Christ.

And they have NOT produced people, who are willing to die for Jesus Christ!

But, right now, as I preach this Sermon, Jesus is “seated”. And He is seated in Heaven- at what several biblical Writers called, the “*Right Hand of the Majesty on High*” (**Hebrews 1:3**); or the “*Right Hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens*” (**Hebrews 8:1**); or the “*Right Hand of the Throne of God*” (**Hebrews 12:2**); or the “*Right Hand in the heavenly Places*” (**Ephesians 1:20**); or the “*Right Hand of the Power of God*” (**Luke 22:69**); or the “*Right Hand of God*” (**Mark 16:19; The Acts 2:33**). So, most people will tell you that, as He is seated at the Right Hand of God- Jesus is *very* Busy doing two things:

1. He is *preparing* a Place for the Redeemed
2. He is *interceding* on behalf of the Redeemed

... but to what End is Jesus doing these two things? What is the “End Game” of ALL of the Work Jesus is engaged in while He is in Heaven? What is Jesus trying so hard to accomplish? Let’s move forward.

We have to understand that Jesus was ready to come back- the very Day He left! So, WHAT is Jesus doing in Heaven that is now going into the third Millennium; and WHY is it taking so long? In **John 14:2&3** we read:

2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

... so, we know that this is one thing Jesus is doing in Heaven!

And EVERYBODY I have met in Church- over the last 55 Years- believes and teaches this! Yet, I'm not certain that this "Preparing" takes over 2,000 years! So, is Jesus doing anything *else* while He is seated in Heaven? YES! Let's look what the unknown Writer said in **Hebrews 7:23-25**:

23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,

24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

... and even though *most* people agree with this- it is usually *only* after I bring it up.

Sadly, this current "*Ministry of Intercession*" by Jesus is NOT usually the main Topic of Conversation by those who make up the modern Church- even though it is clearly taught in Scripture. And one of the Reasons for this- is because very few have taken the Time to reconcile between the two seemingly contradictory Realities that even though His Work is *finished* and our Salvation is Eternal- Jesus is *constantly interceding* for us! But that's another Sermon.

Okay, so Jesus is in Heaven- seated- *preparing* a Place for us; AND He is *interceding* for us! But is He doing anything else? YES! In addition to "Preparing" and "Interceding"- the Bible goes on to teach that Jesus is also "Ruling and Reigning" in *absolute* Authority over ALL things- in BOTH Heaven and Earth- RIGHT NOW! Yet, even though this is clearly and repeatedly taught in sacred Writ- I NEVER hear ANYONE say they believe this! I NEVER hear ANYONE even *talk* about this! Why is that?

The majority of people I have talked to over the last half-Century of my Journey with Jesus- believe some strange, convoluted, and contradictory Concept that says, Jesus is "Lord"- yet satan won't be "bound" until some Point way in the Future. They teach that Jesus is coming back- at least *two more* Times- and some even teach three! And they teach that when Jesus finally comes back- that somehow- WE will "crown Him King of kings and Lord of lords". And THEN Jesus will rule and reign! They have even written Songs about it.

But the Bible says God has ALREADY made Jesus to be BOTH absolute Ruler over ALL things (Lord) and the promised Messiah (Christ)- because He completed God's Plan- *perfectly*! And God did that- BEFORE Jesus ever left this Earth!

Now WHY do I believe this when so many others today don't? Because I genuinely believe this is what the Bible teaches! And I pray that as we go through the following Passages- that you will come to agree with me. First, let's look at **Matthew 28:18**, where Jesus said,

All Authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth.

Now the phrase, "**has been given**" here means that God the Father gave (past tense) Jesus ALL Authority in both Heaven and on Earth BEFORE He ever left the Earth to ascend into Heaven! But all that Authority would be completely *meaningless*- unless Jesus is actually exercising that Authority- by ruling and reigning over all things- right now! Now please look at **Ephesians 1:18-23**, where the Apostle Paul *infallibly* wrote:

18 I pray that the eyes of your Heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

... and Colossians 1:15-18:

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

When Paul used the phrases, “**He is before all things**” and, “**He Himself will come to have first place in everything**” Paul was teaching us that God the Father has given ALL Authority over ALL Thrones; Dominions, Rulers, and Authorities- to Jesus- in BOTH Heaven and on the Earth; AND that- RIGHT NOW- Jesus ALONE holds the “*preeminent* Position” over EVERYTHING God made- *including* satan; the Earth; Heaven; People; Government; the Church; and Angels! Or how about **Philippians 2:8-11**, where the Apostle said,

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

... and again, this is NOT going to happen ONLY when Jesus comes back- but is True- right now! In **1Peter 3:22**: Peter affirmed that Jesus,

... is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

So, Jesus being “**Seated**” at the “**Right Hand of God**”- is simply a different Way to phrase the Reality that Jesus is ruling and reigning- RIGHT NOW- in the Heavens- over ALL things! And when you understand that Truth- you will come to the Conclusion that, right now, *as Bad as he is; and as Hard as he fights; and as much Damage as he causes-* satan HAS to go to God and ask Permission to do *anything!* So, right now- satan is “**BOUND**”- in the sense- that he CANNOT do ANYTHING that God does not sovereignly *allow* him to do!

So, yes! Satan can *fight*; He can *hinder*; he can *tempt*; and he can *possess* evil people to wage War against the Church! But satan CANNOT stop the Church from her *ultimate* Victory! So, when you consider these undeniable Facts:

- There are MORE Christians on Earth today- than at any Time in Church History
- There are MORE Churches in MORE Nations of the World today- than at any Time in Church History
- There are MORE people *preaching* the Gospel today- than at any Time in Church History
- There are MORE people *hearing* the Gospel today- than at any Time in Church History
- There are MORE people working in; and there is MORE Money being spent in Evangelism today- than at any Time in Church History
- Bibles; Sermons; Books; Tapes; Videos; and Tracts- that used to take Months to reach distant Lands- now takes mere Seconds- because of the “Common Grace” of Technology!

... when we consider all of this- it is very hard to think satan is NOT *extremely* “bound”!

Dear Friends, what do you think the Apostles would say today- if they could have lived long enough to see the *unimaginable* Success that the Church has brought about in the Earth over the last 2,000 years- *especially* when you consider it all started in a Prayer Meeting with 120 scared Souls? All those Men had back then- was a Parable; a Promise; and a Prophecy- that the small little “mustard Seed” would one Day grow into a great Tree (**Matthew 13:31&32**)! But we are blessed to be able to actually see that Growth!

But that Truth is also what makes it all the MORE *preposterous* and *cowardly*- that with all this breathtaking Fulfillment going on today- that the Church (mostly the American Church)- has picked NOW- to want to simply leave all this behind and get out of here! Really?

In **The Revelation 1:4**- the Apostle John addressed the last Book of the Bible- to the seven Churches in Asia. Now there were MANY MORE Churches in Asia at the Time that John wrote this Prophecy. But he ONLY addressed seven of them. And then, combined with verse 5- John wrote his Salutation that this final Book was from himself; AND from, God the Father; and from Jesus, who the Apostle described as being, “... **the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**” And John said that was True about Jesus- 2,000 years ago!

So, what does the Bible teach about the Scope of Jesus’ absolute Authority? In other words, over WHAT does Jesus rule and reign- right now?

- **Over the Church:** Jesus operates as the sole and only Head of the Church- governing through His Word and Spirit (**Ephesians 4:8–10**)

- **Over ALL Nations:** Jesus rules and reigns over the Course of History and over ALL World Rulers so that God’s Decree will be carried out (**Daniel 2:21**)
- **Over satan and demons:** satan and demons *fear* Jesus- as He controls what they can and cannot do (**Matthew 8:31; Mark 5:12**, etc.)
- **Over the New Covenant:** Jesus operates as the one, single Mediator at the Right Hand of God, holding ALL Power and Authority (**Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24**)

Now I am well aware that what I am teaching and preaching is VERY Different from what the overwhelming Majority of Churches teach today. But please hear me out. About 1,000 years before Jesus was born, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on King David to write an inspired Poem; Song; or Psalm called, “110” in our Bibles. And in verse 1- we read:

A Psalm of David. 1 The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.

... so, David *infallibly* taught that Jesus will REMAIN in Heaven- seated in the Place of Power and Authority (Right Hand)- exercising His *absolute* Authority by *ruling and reigning* over ALL things in BOTH Heaven and Earth; preparing a Place for us; and *interceding* for God’s people- UNTIL...

... I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.

So, according to the Inspired; Infallible; and Inerrant Word of the living God- Jesus will *remain* in Heaven and will NOT return to this Earth- He will *continue* to rule and reign and intercede- *for as long as it takes*- UNTIL- God the Father makes ALL of Jesus’ Enemies to be a “Footstool for His Feet”!

Now, according to the Apostle Peter- David and the rest of the Old Testament Prophets wrote down things they didn’t understand at all or didn’t understand fully (**1Peter 1:10-12**). For Example, back under the Old Covenant- the Truth that- “*Our one, single God- is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit*” was only understood very *vaguely* and very *generally* by the ancient Jews. They looked through a dark Glass at the Mysteries of God. And so, according to Jewish History- David NEVER knew what this verse meant. And all down through the Centuries, the Jewish Rabbis wrote about their Struggle to understand a Concept they knew was Inspired and yet it remained a complete Mystery to them until Jesus quoted it

(Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42)- which gave us *more* Insight into what David was talking about.

But then, in the Diary of the first 30 years of the Church (**The Book of the Acts of the Apostles**)- God the Holy Spirit anointed the Apostle Peter to stand on the Balcony of the Upper Room and preach the *first* Christian Sermon. And the Apostle Paul commissioned a Gentile medical Doctor (Luke) to record what Peter preached that Day. And I just want to look at a *part* of that Sermon found in **The Acts 2: 32-40**, which says:

32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'"

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"

... so, four things:

1. God the Father has ALREADY made Jesus to be both “Lord” (absolute Ruler) and “Christ” (the promised Messiah) (v.36)
2. Peter is *commanding* the believing Jews of that Day to be baptized “in the Name of” or “according to the Reputation of” Jesus Christ (v.38)
3. Peter *taught* that the “Promise” of Salvation will come to ALL whom God “**will call to Himself**”- which is Sovereign Election. (v. 39)
4. Peter *warned* the believing Jews of that Day to, “**Be saved** [delivered/rescued] **from this perverse generation!**” (v. 40)

Now I have taught you that one of the “Giftings”; or “Anointings”; or one of the “Abilities” that God gave ONLY to the Apostles- was that they were able to *correctly and fully* interpret the Old Testament. And so, Peter taught that the Fulfillment of the 1,000 year old Prophecy of David in **Psalm 110:1**- is fulfilled through:

- **The Birth of the Church** (The Endowment of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room)
- **Salvation in, by, and through Jesus Alone** (signified by water Baptism in Jesus’ Name)
- **The Preaching of the Gospel to EVERY Creature** (v.8)
- **And Jesus ruling and reigning in Heaven in absolute Authority!**

And that means that God will *sovereignly* CAUSE ALL of Jesus’ Enemies to be made a “Footstool for His Feet”- in, by, and through the Prayers and the Preaching and the Teaching of the Church! So, God- in all three Persons- is going to *purify* this Earth- in one of two Ways:

1. Through Salvation- one soul at a Time- as the Gospel is preached
2. By *forcefully* removing ALL Evil-doers (Tares) from the Earth when Jesus comes back

So, it is Victory that will bring Jesus back to this Earth! It is that the Church will have actually *accomplished* its Mission to convert people “out from” every Tribe and Tongue and Nation and ALL of those God has chosen to save (from before the Foundation of the World)- will be saved!

So, Jesus is NOT coming back because of Sin; or Evil; or Rebellion! The *invisible and invincible* Church of the Lord Jesus does NOT *need* nor do we *want* a “rescue Mission” to get us all out of here and put us safely in Heaven- before satan destroys everything! NO! Jesus *wins!* The Gospel will *triumph!* And Jesus will come back- ONE TIME- in spectacular, absolute majestic Glory- to present to Himself the crowning Instrument of His Victory! Please read **Ephesians 5:24-27**:

24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot

or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

... how in the World does anybody get a “Rapture” out of that?

Please look at **2Thessalonians 1:5-10:**

5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

Now look again at the *last* part of verse 7; *all* of verses 8&9; and the *first* part of verse 10:

[God will] give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes ...

So, WHEN will God give Relief to His Saints? In the Rapture? NO!
WHEN will Jesus deal out Retribution to those who do NOT know God AND to those who do NOT obey the Gospel? During the “Great Tribulation”? Nope!
WHEN will those evil people pay the Penalty of eternal Destruction? Paul wrote:

... when He comes ...

... or in other words, when Jesus comes back to this Earth!

Okay, but what will Jesus come back to this Earth- FOR?

1. **[To] present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing... (Ephesians 5:27)**

2. **when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed... (2Thessalonians 1:10)**
3. **[To] send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire... (Matthew 13:41b&42)**

... and **THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father!**

This is the great Victory of Jesus! And this is the Culmination of ALL that the Church has fought for; suffered for; and died for! So, according to this- Jesus is coming back to this Earth:

1. To give Himself the Gift of a Bride that has been purified
2. To be *glorified* in His Saints
3. To be *marveled at* among all who have believed
4. To *purify* the Earth

... so that the Righteous may shine!

And this, again, teaches that the Church will be on this Earth and NOT in Heaven- when Jesus comes back! The Apostle Paul *infallibly* wrote that the Church is going to be here on the Earth to be presented to Jesus as His holy, blameless, and glorious Bride- that no longer has a Spot or a Wrinkle or anything that even *resembles* a Spot or a Wrinkle- because of what He alone has done!

But if the Church was already in Heaven- this Passage could NOT possibly be accomplished! Because the Bible teaches that the 2nd Coming is the crowning Achievement of ALL Jesus has done to His Glory- *through* His Church!

So, the “*Parable of the Tares and the Wheat*” teaches us WHEN God is going to *purify* His Kingdom; HOW He is going to *purify* His Kingdom; and WHY! And I pray we can all believe this!

Amen! Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.