

Understanding the New Testament Gospels The Kingdom from the Heavens in Mystery Form

- I.** Review:
 1. 1st The Sower—few will receive the word concerning the change in the Kingdom from the Heavens, those will be fruitful.
 2. 2nd The Tares—in the new form the Kingdom is infiltrated by Satan.

- II.** The parable of the Mustard Seed (Mt. 13:31-32).
 1. The Kingdom from the Heavens is like unto.
 2. Small herb becomes a tree.
 3. Birds roost (make their home) in the branches.
 - 1) Become part of it.
 - 2) Comfortable there.
 4. Field = world; birds = Satan/demons; tree = not the intended specie.

- III.** Popular interpretation: the mustard seed is the Gospel problems:
 1. First parable—most of the soil unfavorable, only a few seeds last.
 2. Second parable focuses on the false wheat.
 3. The third parable then must also teach failure.
 4. The seed roots deep in the soil—the world.
 5. The seed grows to a monstrosity.
 6. Herbs are different species that trees: annual vs. perennial.
 7. The birds (Satan/demons) make their home there.

The tree symbolizes earthly greatness, worldly growth. The tree necessarily dominates in growth and stature over what the mustard that was initially intended. The tree demonstrates the results of the tares in the 2nd parable: the change in form.