

Understanding the New Testament Gospels

The Parable of the Dragnet (Mt. 13:47-49)

- I. There are two distinct people of God during the Mystery form of the Kingdom from the Heavens. The parable of the Treasure indicates that Israel is still valuable during the time of the Gentiles. The parable of the Pearl shows that something precious will be developing during this form of the Kingdom.
- II. The Parable of the Dragnet.
 1. Net cast into the sea
 2. Every kind of (*fish?*) are gathered
 3. The net having been brought to the shore
 4. Having sat and they gathering
 5. The good into receptacles and
 6. The worthless and threw them out.
- III. Interpretation
 1. The good ones = righteous ones (v. 49)
 2. The worthless ones = malignantly evil ones (v. 49).
 3. The net cannot be God's calling unto salvation because bad ones are collected; therefore, the net has to be the realm of profession, not possession.
 4. The sea represents Gentiles (Rev. 13:1; 17:15; 18:3, 9; Dan. 7:3). Land would represent Israel.
 5. Every kind = Gentiles of all types (Mt. 21:43; 1 Pet. 2:9; Acts 15:14; Rev. 5:8-9).
 6. Sitting implies formal judgment.
 7. The full net implies a fixed number as does election (Eph. 1:4).
 8. They gathering = angels (v. 49).
 9. The end of the age would be the end of the legal age which concludes with the end of the Tribulation—the 70th Week of Daniel.
- IV. Conclusions, during this form of the Kingdom from the Heavens:
 1. Believers will be chosen without regard to race.
 2. There is a specific time when the net will be drawn.
 3. No bad *fish* will be formally judged until the end of the Tribulation.
 4. Only God can sort out the counterfeit believers.
 5. The Kingdom from the Heavens in this form includes unsaved.