

Brazil SotP 2019 Notes:

31. Leviticus 26 (01-02-19)

Matt 13:24-30

"Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also." {COL 70.1}

"The field," Christ said, "is the world." But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. The parable is a description of that which pertains to the kingdom of God, His work of salvation of men; and this work is accomplished through the church. True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God. {COL 70.2}

Mat 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

It talks about the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

What does it say the field is? - The World

What does the "world" mean in this verse?

(S) People

So we have a field and you are going to plant 2 types of crops - a black one and a green one.

Good Seed = (S) Good people

Tares = (S) Wicked people

Field = (S) World

But I asked you what the world was and you said it was people.

(S) Earth... territory

Does anybody disagree?

(S) "Heaven" Jesus sows... wouldn't his field be the church?

1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

What 'world' is this? Church or earth?

(S) Earth

1Co 3:22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

Just to get some context.. we read vs. 19 and it says that the wisdom of the earth is 'against God.' How does he know this? He says that his proof is something that is written in the Bible - "For it is written..." He knows that worldly wisdom is against God's wisdom because the Bible says something - "He" or God, will take the wise... what does the word "take" mean?

(S) to separate

It actually means "to trap, or to snare" - to capture

The word itself doesn't mean to trap but to take your hand and grasp something. Where is the first time you see that happening?

(S) Eve

If you did a word study on the word "hand" you would see that it wasn't Eve but actually Adam because Eve is given the fruit but he takes it. They are taken out of the garden because what is Adam about to do? He is about to trap or grasp hold of that fruit and if you see the context of that story, the word 'hand' which is a symbol means what?

Gen 3:22 - it means power. So back to 1 Cor 3:19, it means to take something into your grasp and is in the context of capturing something. So God is going to capture the wise. Are these wise good or bad?

(S) Bad

So you can get wise people who are bad. That is vs. 19, and then vs 20 says "And again" so it is going to talk more about God; what He knows and what He doesn't know. We skip vs. 21 and into vs. 22. What is the world in vs 22? Is it the church or the earth? The word that we looked at in 1 Cor is exactly the same word we see in Matt 13. So in vs. 38 and He says the world and by the way I didn't even tell you what the word is but it is 'cosmos.' What is the cosmos?

(S) Space...

The whole universe - everything. In this context, when he says "the world" we know that He doesn't mean Saturn, Pluto, the stars. But he is using the word "cosmos" in the context of this planet. The reason I want to label the point is so that we are sure that when Jesus says that the field is the world that He actually meant this planet. We need to make 2 columns. 1 = the parable and 1 = the interpretation. You would need to line up 24 and 38. It is a good study to cross-reference. This works well also in Dan 2, 7 and 8.

The good seed = the children of the kingdom.

But when it talks of the children of the wicked one it doesn't speak of the kingdom. What kingdom is that?

(S) The kingdom of God

How did you know that?

(S) Vs.24 says 'the kingdom of heaven.' So in verse 38 it just says 'kingdom' and doesn't say who it is.

Coming back to COL...

"The field," Christ said, "is the world." But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. The parable is a description of that which pertains to the kingdom of God, His work of salvation of men; and this work is accomplished through the church. True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God. {COL 70.2}

What is she saying here?

(Barbara) She is making an application

So she isn't correcting Christ? Or explaining what He meant?

(S) Yes explaining, but in an application.

In English to say "explain" would be to demonstrate what the person was trying to say. And I've said that earth = 'cosmos.' And I'm saying that when God used the word 'cosmos' that He chose it because that is what He was trying to show us. So I would argue that He meant 'earth.' And that is what explanation means. If someone else stood up and said 'let us explain what Jesus meant' and He meant church, I don't think that is an explanation of what the verse meant.

(S) The word 'earth' can have more than one meaning

I can change 'earth' to 'cosmos' and then you will tell me that the word 'cosmos' can have more than one meaning. Where did I get the word 'cosmos?' I went to Strongs in Matt 13:38 and it is G2889 and what is that word? "kosmos"

She isn't saying that the church = the world, but that we can understand the parable as meaning the church that is in the world.

"The field," Christ said, "is the world." But we must understand this as signifying the church of Christ in the world. ...it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God. {COL 70.2}

EW says that we must understand this to mean the church, not the world. Why? That is where we grow.

She has changed the target, or the context. I want us to see that she isn't saying Christ made a mistake or a problem with the translation and it should have been church but they made it world... this is not an explanation but an application.

I want us to see that we are looking at the parable of the wheat and tares at 2 different scales - one that Christ gives us and one that Ellen White gives us.

(Heber) EW is talking about the church not the world

I think bro. Heber was saying that EW just says 'the church' without considering the dispensation of when that church began or didn't begin. This is Mat 13 so would it be a foolish assumption to think that He was speaking to the people in His own generation when He starts

speaking of 'the children of the kingdom' or is He thinking about something that is going to happen 2000 years in the future. So when EW speaks of the church, is she speaking of Adventism or the GC which is the tension about what is happening in God's church throughout history. When we approach this parable or her writings we tend to focus in on a very narrow portion of history which is the portion that we are living in and the reason why I'm repeating what I think he was saying is because it becomes an important point about how we approach this subject when we start talking about 'the church' and what that church is.

(S) I don't understand what she meant when she says 'the church in the world.'

How many churches are there?

(S) 1

Where is that church located?

(S) on earth

...God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people. {AA 11.2}

Through centuries of persecution, conflict, and darkness, God has sustained His church. {AA 11.3}

The first phrase gives the context... so through difficult periods God sustains His church. What church was that? The church on earth or the church in heaven?

(S) Earth

So there is a church on earth and a church in heaven - 2 churches?

No candlestick, no church, shines of itself. From Christ emanates all its light. **The church in heaven today is only the complement of the church on earth**; but it is higher, grander--perfect. The same divine illumination is to continue through eternal ages. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the light thereof. No church can have light if it fails to diffuse the glory it receives from the throne of God. {AG 95.4}

If you study it you will see that she says that at some point in time they will unite one with another and there will be one church. What was your original question?

(S) I don't understand what she means when she speaks of "the church in the world."

She says that instead of looking at the world she wants to speak of the church in the world. You can't expect to plant yourself in the United Kingdom and expect to grow into a righteous person. London isn't a good place to grow into a beautiful plant. Substitute any city...

True, the Holy Spirit has gone out into all the world; everywhere it is moving upon the hearts of men; but it is in the church that we are to grow and ripen for the garner of God. {COL 70.2}

Paraphrase: 'True, the HS has gone to London and you can go there and plant your feet and you can grow up to be righteous because the HS went there. But in real life it isn't going to be like that. It isn't in London where you will experience this growth. You have to be in the church that is in London. You have to go to a church in London. There's no point going to London.' That is why she says that we are going to look at the church instead of the world.

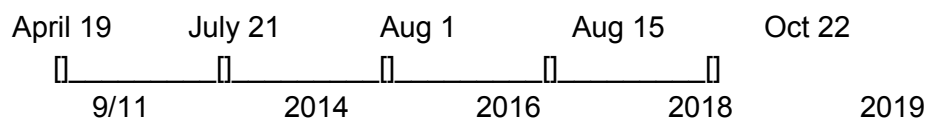
Christ says 'the world' and EW says that there is no-one in the world who ripens and grows. Two prophets are approaching the singular parable and not in different ways but on different levels. And it's not so much about time periods but br. Heber made that point, but it is the church in general. It isn't targeting a specific church. Because we've become so fascinated by ourselves and our own experience we don't just say 'the church' but we say that to 'the movement.' So we are going to take EW's model and we bring it to the level of the movement. Hopefully we can see that it can be applied at the level of the world or at the level of the church and both of those usages or levels we got from inspiration. We didn't make them up - they are easy to see and read. Hopefully we are at a place now that we can see that they are being discussed at different levels. The scale is completely different but the way she uses this passage - the only thing that has changed is the size of the field. She didn't change anything else. We would see this if we read through the chapter. When we approach this problem, before we make application for this movement, wouldn't it be good to understand what Christ was saying and what EW was saying and understand them properly? Of course that would make sense. I'm not trying to define these 2 stories in any specific way - but it might be a repeat and enlarge which is basically a repeating story, or a fractal (which is essentially a repeating pattern at a different scale) but what I want us to see is that there is an issue of scale.

1 = planet

1 = church

I want to point out that if we consider our galaxy, and we are a little dot on the earth, and all that is the cosmos, if I change all of that to a round galaxy, the earth would be on the outside. If we have the galaxy to the earth, to me it looks like the church to the earth. The only reason I mention that is because the subject of scale shouldn't change the shape. Most of us are familiar with that when we start using fractals or repeat and enlarge.

Just to point out something from sister T's class - she made a comment about the Millerite line and our line and I'm not commenting on what she was teaching but I just want to make an observation...



We have external events tagged to these waymarks. People are asking why there were no external events in the Millerite time-period. But if we were to put them to scale, the Millerite time period was 6 months and ours was 18 years. In the movement we are quite familiar with jumping from one scale to another. 18 years to 6 months... and what we've done is that we have taken that 6 month period and we have expanded it in a way we haven't thought about. At the end the final events would be rapid ones, but think about this. If we start listening to what is

happening in that 18 year history and people are panicking because we are coming close to November 2019, I'm not saying that God isn't in control of everything, but Millerites have weeks.. 15 days between Aug 1 and Aug 15. Nothing happens in 15 days from one event to another. One thing that I think we are beginning to see is that the way we conceptualised the end of the world isn't fulfilling in that way. From July to October is 3 months and in our history it is 5 years. That 5 year history is the SL. Who would have imagined that you have a 5 year SL. We are in an interesting environment here with many young people. Imagine you don't know any of this, and I told you that the US had passed a SL yesterday and you didn't know about it and you would be surprised now. Don't misunderstand me... who would have come to me and said 'can I have a discussion with you' and would ask me 'do you think I should start a degree?' 'Is this a good career option?' And I just told you the SL had passed. The SL wasn't passed yesterday but 5 years ago. You could say that you didn't know but we have known for quite a while and we still are living life as though it is all normal. We are having major events that are changing this world in a way that we didn't even realise. We should learn something from this - when the SL of vs. 41 comes in do you really imagine that you are going to have major events happening 10 or 15 days apart? The Millerite line becomes a template or type of our history so when we look at their line and don't see external events happening God might have His reasons beyond the one I'm going to give but 1 is that it is too short a time. How could major events have happened in such quick succession? When you think for us they are happening every 2 years and it is still catching us by surprise. Can you imagine if something happened on July 21 in Boston or New York, how long would it take for it to get to another city? I know the telegraph was coming in about this time but there are many isolated farms. They might not go to town every week or every two weeks. How could they be controlled or directed by these external events? The logistics of that history wouldn't allow it to happen. Back to our story, hopefully we are all in agreement, like the 6 months becomes 18 years, you can turn the world into an atom and the dynamics can remain the same. We need to understand the dynamics before we make an application. This parable has been in the conscious mind of this movement for about 2 1/2 years and we still haven't gone systematically through this and explained it properly.