

Mysteries of the Kingdom

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MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

This edition of *Mysteries of the Kingdom* is a reprint of an earlier publication in a new handy book size printing. The original thesis layout was utilized in the first publication, including letter-size pages, double-spacing and standard thesis style formatting. For readability and the convenience of students in my *Parables and Metaphors* class at *Christian Life College*, Stockton, California, I have produced this new format of the former work.

The only other changes that have been incorporated are the insertion of transliterations of *Greek* or *Hebrew* terms within the text to aid the student in the pronunciation of these words from the original languages. These additions have been placed in brackets and italicized, for example the Greek word for parable, παραβολη [*parabole*].

Admittedly, this is not an easy read, but hopefully, the research and study incorporated in these pages will provide a platform for further study and dialogue concerning the importance of the parabolic genre. Read thoughtfully, interacting with the text of Scripture, while contemplating the significance and viability of the proposals of this thesis.

Rather than remaining a "mystery" there is revelation and understanding promised to those who will seek to know the lessons taught by the Lord. In response to the disciples' question, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" Jesus said, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven but to them it has not been given" (Matthew 13: 11). As a believer, read with faith and understanding and allow the Word to be illuminating in your life!

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ABSTRACT

The premise of this study is to demonstrate that there is adequate evidence in the kingdom parables of Matthew 13 to signify Jesus' intentional teaching concerning the Gentile mission and their inclusion in the kingdom of heaven. While Matthew is often noted for his "Jewishness" there are ample indications that his intention was to show the development of Gentile inclusion in the early church with its inception deep in the gospel tradition. If the national priority and universal commission present what appears to be an irreconcilable tension when viewed in isolation, this study will show how the global commission is anticipated in the parables of Jesus as presented in Matthew 13.

The study further demonstrates how the literary form of the parable lends itself to broader interpretation when considered in the light of its Old Testament equivalent, *mashal*. Various interpretive considerations are introduced as a defense for a controlled use of allegory in understanding the broader implications of the parables of Matthew 13. Finally, the individual parables of the study are briefly referenced with particular emphasis placed on their Gentile implications. It is concluded that Jesus intentionally gave hints and teaching to prepare Jewish followers for the influx of Gentile believers and the universal implication of the Gospel message.

In this study the *New King James Version* of the Bible is the translation of choice and where the *New American Standard Version* is used it will be indicated with NASB.