Man was created in the beginning to rule and to reign. And though only a part of saved mankind will have been brought back into a position to occupy the throne at the beginning of the Millennium (with the tree of life [\*the fruit gives one the wisdom and knowledge necessary to rule] made available to them at this time), at the end of the Millennium the whole of saved mankind will be brought back into this position (with the tree of life made available to them at this time). ~ Arlen Chitwood

\*Added by Pat

**Christians throughout the churches today are simply not hearing the one message, above all other messages, which they should be hearing. And the reason is given in the first four parables of** [**Matthew 13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV)**. The working of the leaven over almost two millennia of time has produced a corruption extending throughout Christendom that has all but destroyed the message surrounding the Word of the Kingdom. And, as a result of this corruption, the Bible, for the most part, remains a closed book for the vast majority of Christians.**

**The Central Message of the New Testament  
By Charles Strong of** [**Bible One**](http://www.bibleone.net/)

Excerpted from [Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Mysteries of the Kingdom, Ch. 13](http://bibleone.net/MK13.htm).

Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.” ([Matthew 13:52](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.52&t=NKJV))

The Word of the Kingdom — the message surrounding the kingdom of the heavens ([Matthew 13:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.11&t=NKJV), [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.19&t=NKJV), [24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.24&t=NKJV)) — is the central message of the New Testament. Whether studying the gospels, the book of Acts, the epistles, or the book of Revelation, an individual will be studying Scriptures dealing centrally with a message pertaining to the kingdom.

The person understanding this message will possess a proper foundation to build upon as he studies different parts of the New Testament. However, if this message is not understood, the converse of the preceding will be true. That person will possess an improper foundation to build upon; and his studies throughout any part of the New Testament will, accordingly, be adversely affected.

This is why an individual instructed in the Word of the Kingdom can be likened to the householder in the text. Not only will he be able to go to the Scriptures and bring forth things that are “old” (things he has already seen and understood) but he will also be able, from the things that are “old,” to begin seeing and bringing forth things that are “new” as well (things he has not previously seen and understood).

And, according to the text, he will be able to do this because he has been “instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven.” He now possesses a key to the Scriptures; a key that will open numerous passages of Scripture to his understanding, passages that otherwise would have remained closed.

Such an individual, as he studies and learns new things about the Word of the Kingdom, will progressively find himself being able to, more and more, take the “old” and see and understand that which is “new.” And the more that person comes into an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom, the more he will see Scripture opening up to him in this fashion. The latter, in this respect, is inseparably linked to and dependent on the former.

This is what an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom will do for an individual in his quest for knowledge of Scripture. And, though this has been the experience and testimony of numerous Christians, this is not simply what they might have to say about the matter. Rather, this is what the unchangeable Word of God has to say about the matter.

The Word of God clearly reveals that a person instructed in the Word of the Kingdom can go to the Scriptures and bring forth out of this storehouse of unlimited treasures “things new and old.” But by the same token, apart from an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom, though an individual may be able to see and understand certain truths, the same situation referred to in [Matthew 13:52](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.52&t=NKJV) simply doesn’t exist.

The preceding will explain why this whole realm of teaching lies center stage in Satan’s attack against the Word during the present dispensation. An understanding of the Word of the Kingdom is the key to a proper understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christians, and Satan knows this. He knows that if he can corrupt or destroy that which will open the door to a proper understanding of the numerous other Scriptures bearing on the subject, he can best accomplish the purpose for his present work among Christians.

Satan’s efforts toward this end are something easily seen in the first four parables in [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV). These four parables present a chronology of Satan’s work as he seeks to subvert the Word of the Kingdom, and this chronology covers the progressive results of his work in this respect throughout the entire dispensation.

Satan’s attack in the first parable, the parable of the sower ([Matthew 13:3-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.3-8&t=NKJV), [18-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.18-23&t=NKJV)), was seen to be against those hearing the Word of the Kingdom. He sought to stop the matter at that point, preventing individuals from understanding this message and subsequently bringing forth fruit. Four types of individuals are seen responding to the message, with Satan being successful in his attack against three of the four. Those seen in the first three of the four categories fell away and bore no fruit. But Satan’s attack against those in the fourth category proved to be unsuccessful. They heard the Word, received and understood the Word, overcame Satan’s attack, and bore fruit.

Then the next parable, the parable of the wheat and tares ([Matthew 13:24-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.24-30&t=NKJV), [36-43](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.36-43&t=NKJV)), centers on Satan’s attack against the ones bearing fruit from the previous parable. Satan placed those with a false message (false teachers) in the midst of those bearing fruit, seeking to subvert the message and stop that which was occurring. That is to say, he sought to corrupt the true message by introducing a false message. And this was done with a view to stopping that which had resulted from a proclamation of the true message. This was done with a view to stopping those Christians who were bearing fruit from doing so.

Then the next parable, the parable of the mustard seed ([Matthew 13:31-32](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.31-32&t=NKJV)), shows that which happened in Christendom over the course of time during the dispensation because of this false message. The mustard seed germinated and took a normal growth for a while. But then something happened, which caused it to take an abnormal growth and eventually become a tree. And after this abnormal growth had occurred — after the mustard bush had become a tree, something that it wasn’t supposed to become at all — the birds of the air (ministers of Satan, seen in the first parable [[Matthew 13:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.4&t=NKJV)]) found a lodging place therein.

And the fourth parable, the parable of the leaven ([Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV)), completes the picture. The false message introduced near the beginning of the dispensation is likened to leaven placed in three measures of meal (“three” is the number of divine perfection, and “meal” is that which is used to make bread. Leaven [a corrupting substance] was placed in the meal [resulting in corruption in the bread]). And this leaven would continue to work (this false message would continue to permeate and corrupt the true message) until the whole had been leavened (until the whole had been corrupted).

This is the revealed direction that Christendom would take relative to the true message concerning the Word of the Kingdom following the introduction of the leaven, following the introduction of a false message concerning the Word of the Kingdom.

These four parables together show a history of Christendom throughout the dispensation in relation to the Word of the Kingdom. This message — the central message of the New Testament — was universally taught throughout the churches during the first century. But the introduction of a false message resulted in changes. Christendom itself took an abnormal growth; and this abnormal growth was such that the false teachers eventually found themselves welcomed within that which they, through their false message, had corrupted.

Corruption though didn’t stop at this point. The working of the leaven continued, and it would continue until this false message had permeated all of Christendom. This corrupting process would continue, according to the text, “till the whole” had been leavened.

And, viewing the matter solely from the standpoint of that which can be seen in the world today, what has been the end result of the working of the leaven? As the dispensation draws to a close, where does the Church find itself today?

The answers are easy to ascertain. All one has to do in order to see and understand that which has happened is to go into almost any church of the land (fundamental and liberal alike) and listen for any mention of things having to do with the Word of the Kingdom. A person will listen in vain. Because of the working of a leavening process that is in its final stages, the true biblical message surrounding Christians and the coming kingdom is practically nonexistent throughout Christendom today.

This leavening process recognizes no bounds or barriers. Fundamental Christendom finds itself just as permeated with the leaven, as it relates to the Word of the Kingdom, as does liberal Christendom. From the theology schools to the pulpits of churches to the pews in these churches, the whole of Christendom finds itself in exactly the same state insofar as that which is revealed throughout the first four parables in [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV) is concerned.

Many of the fundamentalists, not understanding the true nature of the leavening process, look upon themselves as having escaped this corruption. But such is not the case at all. Insofar as any understanding and proclamation of the Word of the Kingdom is concerned, the fundamental groups find themselves in exactly the same state as the liberal groups. They find themselves permeated through and through with exactly the same corrupting leaven. There is absolutely no difference between the two groups in this respect. Neither understands nor proclaims this message.

Seminaries — fundamental and liberal alike — are training students in everything but the one message that will open the Scriptures to their understanding. And these same seminaries are turning out graduates who are filling the pulpits of churches with a message completely void of any reference to the Word of the Kingdom. These seminary graduates don’t know the truth of the matter, and, as a result, their entire ministries are negatively affected. The various flocks that the Lord has entrusted to their care are not being properly fed; and, in reality, for the most part, Christians under their ministries are slowly starving to death.

Christians throughout the churches today are simply not hearing the one message, above all other messages, which they should be hearing. And the reason is given in the first four parables of [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV). The working of the leaven over almost two millennia of time has produced a corruption extending throughout Christendom that has all but destroyed the message surrounding the Word of the Kingdom. And, as a result of this corruption, the Bible, for the most part, remains a closed book for the vast majority of Christians.

The preceding is why a person, untrained in the theology schools of the land, but understanding the Word of the Kingdom, often has a better grasp of the whole of Scripture than many of those who are teaching in the theology schools. The person having an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom possesses a key to Scripture that a person without this understanding does not possess. He can go to the Scriptures and bring forth things both “new and old”; but the same thing cannot be said for those who lack this understanding.

**Why?**

Why will instruction in the Word of the Kingdom open the Scriptures to a person’s understanding like nothing else? Why is an understanding of this message so vital if a person is to possess a correct and proper grasp of Scripture? The answer could be looked upon in a twofold respect.

First, an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom is the only thing that will provide the true biblical picture surrounding the purpose for the Christian life. Why did God bring the new creation “in Christ” into existence? Why is God taking an entire dispensation to do a work among the Gentiles? Why is the Holy Spirit presently in the world performing a work among Christians?

And second, an understanding of the Word of the Kingdom is the only thing that will provide the true biblical picture surrounding direction for the Christian life. What is the goal toward which everything moves as it pertains to the new creation “in Christ”? What is the spiritual warfare about? What is the race of the faith about? What will be the end result of victory or defeat as it pertains to the warfare or the race?

An understanding of the Word of the Kingdom will answer questions surrounding the Christian life unlike anything else in the Word of God. This is the only thing that will present the complete biblical picture in its correct fashion. Only out of this teaching can all the issues surrounding the Christian life be properly addressed, and only out of this teaching can one find the true motivation for Godly Christian living.

But, if all the preceding is true — and it is — then why is this message so fought against in Christian circles today? It would appear that acceptance rather than rejection would be the norm.

Such though is not the case at all. Rather, with rare exceptions, rejection is invariably the norm. And the reason is seen in the working of the leaven in [Matthew 13:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV). The negative attitude of Christians toward the Word of the Kingdom is simply the end result of a work of Satan that has been going on for almost 2,000 years.

**Warning**

The parables in [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV) deal far more extensively with the negative than they do with the positive. More space is given in the first parable to those who fail to bring forth fruit than is given to those who do bring forth fruit (in three of the four parts). And the emphasis in the second, third, fourth, and seventh parables is on different facets of this same work of Satan as well. Only the fifth and sixth parables, which have to do with Christ’s redemptive work as it relates to the earth and to His bride, form an exception.

Thus, the central thrust of these parables is seen to be far more negative than positive. These parables have to do centrally with exposing the work of Satan throughout the dispensation in relation to the Word of the Kingdom, along with revealing where this will lead, both during and following the dispensation.

As the dispensation draws to a close and Satan’s corrupting work nears its final stage, the whole matter goes almost completely unrecognized in Christendom. And the reason for this is easy to see and understand. The leavened state of Christendom is being viewed by those who have themselves been adversely affected by the leaven.

They are, in this respect, as were the two disciples on the Emmaus road who were walking alongside the resurrected Christ and didn’t even recognize Him. Their inability to recognize the Christ of the Old Testament Scriptures — the Word that had become flesh, the Old Testament Scriptures that had been manifested in a Person — resulted from their inability to properly understand these same Scriptures. It was only after these Scriptures had been opened to their understanding, followed by Christ breaking bread, that their eyes were opened.

And Christians today, viewing a leavened Christendom and not seeing or understanding its true condition, are simply not viewing matters from a correct biblical perspective. Their inability to recognize the true condition of the Church stems from their inability to understand that which Scripture reveals about the matter. And, if their eyes are to be opened to the truth of the existing situation, such will occur only through the truth of the Word being presented to them and being accepted by them.

But will such occur during the present dispensation? Will the truth about the coming kingdom ever be proclaimed in such a manner that it will be accepted, allowing the eyes of Christians to be opened?

One here and one there will hear and understand the message, but not the Church at large. Conditions can only continue to deteriorate in the latter respect. Such was assured — the pattern was set — when the woman placed the leaven in the three measures of meal. And conditions can only continue to deteriorate, until the whole has been leavened.

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[Bible One - Arlen Chitwood's Mysteries of the Kingdom, Ch. 13](http://bibleone.net/MK13.htm)