

## THE PARABLE OF THE WHEAT AND TARES

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The parable of the wheat and the tares is set out in Matthew 13. 24-30.

The man sowing the seed is the Lord Jesus and the field is the world. The good seed is the wheat, followers of the Lord Jesus and the tares are weeds relating to the Devil and his followers which would also include atheists and all those who set themselves up against the Lord. The enemy is the Devil and the harvest comes at the end of the age. The reapers are God's angels who will bind the tares and cast them into the fire of punishment. The wheat, the saved, will shine in God's kingdom which some older Christians used to refer to the harvest home.

The hymn Come ye thankful people came includes these points

The world is God's own field  
Wheat and tares together sown  
Grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be  
In the fire the tares to cast  
The glorious harvest home is where the believers will be

The writer of this hymn was Henry Alford (1810- 1871) an Anglican minister who began his career somewhere in Leicester. In Victorian days, we had Bible-based clergymen.

Wheat and tares are sown together and we would wish for all these tares and their evil to be removed but evil will not be eliminated until the Lord comes. We are planted in a corrupt soil for the world is corrupt but if we root out the tares we may also uproot the wheat, and yet we read in the opening of Psalm 24, The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof. We live our lives and may often be tangled up with weeds which Ephesians calls the wiles of the Devil

I am astounded at the lack of knowledge people have of the Bible. In the newspapers recently it is reported that 25% of people believe that Superman is a hero in the Bible.

What is also distressing is that the Church of England has a list of its beliefs and ordinances called the Catechism which removes all references to the Devil and evil spirits. Emmanuel Swedenborg, who began a cult, stated that there was no Devil but that all evil was introduced by men and women. Chrisadelphians do not believe in Satan either.

In the Bible, we read that Satan has access to God as in the opening chapters of the book of Job and the Devil's plan was to get Job to renounce God and His goodness. Job is subsequently plagued by his wife and three so-called friends and suffers greatly yet, through the grace of God, keeps his faith and is richly blessed.

With this in mind some have opined that those who preach false doctrine may be weeds but whether that is so is not a matter for us now although Paul wrote to Timothy about this.

The Lord Jesus said that the Devil wants to sift you like wheat but I pray that your faith will not fail.

In Revelation 10.12 Satan accuses God's people day and night. Satan is responsible for all the sin in the world. He has and continues to rebel against God and hates the Lord Jesus who said of the Pharisees, ye are of the Devil (John 8.44).

Satan is anti-God and anti-Christ and atheists are the same and yet one day they will all bow to the Lord Jesus before they, as tares, will be sent to everlasting punishment

It is said that we must not talk about politics but the current leader of the Opposition, Ed Milliband, is an atheist and two other politicians. George Galloway and Ken Livingstone are not only atheists but hate the Jews with venom and therefore are racist and bigots.

We read in James 4, Resist the Devil and he will flee from you, but we must also record the other aspect here, Submit yourself unto God.

Although it may not seem so the Devil is a defeated foe and with the increase of sin and violence in the world it is said that he is having a final major assault on what is good. The Lord Jesus is the light of the world whereas Satan is the prince of darkness.

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