



"THE 41 PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST"

28 general and 13 kingdom of heaven parables

Parable #8 - "MUSTARD SEED"

[Matthew 13:31-32](#)

This is the 3rd of the 13 kingdom of heaven parables.

It also has application to the kingdom of God in [Mark 4:30-32](#); [Luke 13:18-19](#)

"Another parable he put forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.**" ([Matt 13:31-32](#))

BACKGROUND:

In 445BC, with **one Bible week** equating to **seven years** (a prophetic year being 360 days), God commanded that **seventy weeks** each of **7 years**, would be determined upon Israel, that is ... **70 weeks x 7 years = 490 years** ([Daniel 9:24-27](#)).

This time frame is broken into **four** time periods of (a) **7 weeks** + (b) **62 weeks** + (c) the mystery church age of about 2,000 years + (d) **1 week = 70 weeks** and is explained as follows:

#1. **Seven** weeks of years is **7 x 7 = 49** years ... the time it takes to restore and build Jerusalem from 445BC to 396BC.

#2. **Sixty two** weeks of years is **62 x 7 = 434** years ... the time from the building of Jerusalem in 396BC to Christ being cut off at the cross in 32AD.

#3. The church age of approximately 2,000 years

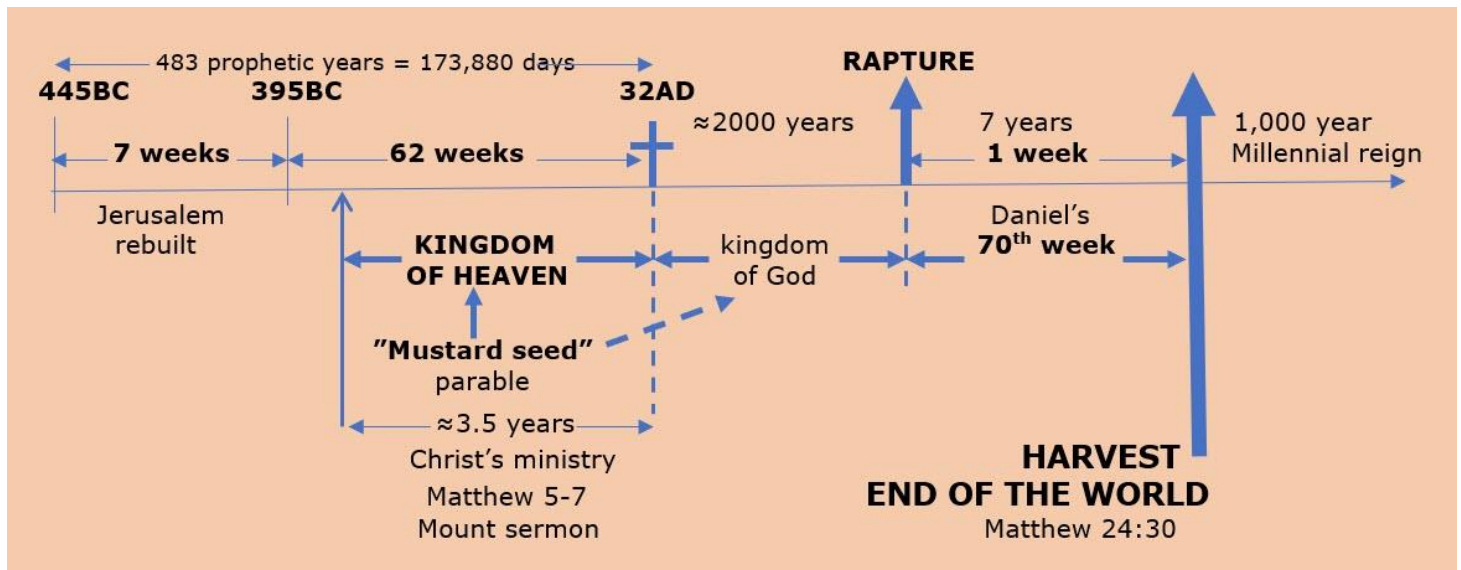
#4. **One week** of years is **1 x 7 = 7** years ... this is the seven years of tribulation of God's wrath upon the earth, that takes place after the rapture ... called **Daniel's 70th week**.

The following **Timeline** will help (not drawn to scale):

[DANIEL 9:24-27](#)

"**Seventy weeks** are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city ... from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be **seven weeks**, and **threescore and two weeks** ... after **threescore and two**

weeks shall Messiah be cut off ... he shall confirm the covenant with many for **one week**
 ...”



“THE MUSTARD SEED” [Matthew 13:31-32](#)

the kingdom of heaven = see the timeline above

grain of mustard seed = This is Israel being the first to be planted in the world with faith toward God. Faith is associated with mustard seeds ([Luke 17:6](#)).

A mustard seed is not the smallest of seeds, but it the smallest seed you can plant in the ground. The plant starts life very small but it grows up to be the biggest tree.

a man = God

his field = the world

the least of all seeds = Israel starts out as the least of all seeds ([Ezekiel 16:6](#))

greatest of herbs and becometh a tree = Israel's history is a repetition of increasing and waxing great ([Ezekiel 16:7](#)) with corruption and devastation following. The seven years of tribulation will be no different with Israel, just after the rapture, initially becoming the greatest, but then destruction follows with the emergence antichrist setting himself up in the temple ([Daniel 12:11](#)).

the birds of the air come = sin, corruption and every foul creature come and live in the kingdom

lodge in the branches = overtakes the kingdom ... like leaven in a loaf of bread. It looks like bread, tastes like bread but has been 'infiltrated'.

As Christ said

*"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh (Christ's 2nd coming in Revelation chapter 19), **shall he find faith on the earth?**" ([Luke 18:8](#))*

This parable also has **APPLICATION TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD** dispensation as follows, with Paul writing to Timothy:

*"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but **after their own lusts** shall they **heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears**; And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables." ([2 Timothy 4:2-4](#))*

Secondly, we are reminded that it is the **little foxes that spoil the vines and fruit**.

*"Take us the foxes, **the little foxes, that spoil the vines**: for our vines have tender grapes." ([Song of Songs 2:15](#))*

In the bible there are **two** creatures that represent sin ... **birds** and **foxes**.

Mmmm! Dear Reader, I wonder what the little foxes and the birds are in Christian churches? Oh I know ... how about the following **for starters** ...

1. Other versions of the Bible especially the New King James
2. Allowing water baptisms either side of salvation.
3. Tithing
4. Calvinism
5. Voting church memberships
6. Ignorance of the differences between the kingdom gospel and the kingdom of God gospel.

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October 2023

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