

## **Essential Understanding of the Kingdom as Taught by Jesus in Matt 13**

**[ Commentary provided by M. J. Greene ]**

“What is certain in the teaching of these difficult parables is that the present age, viewed from the standpoint of the Kingdom, is a time of preparation. During this period the Son of Man is sowing seed (vs. 37), generating and developing a spiritual nucleus for the future Kingdom, a group called the “sons of the kingdom (vs. 38, ASV). At the same time He is permitting a parallel development of evil in the world under the leadership of Satan (vss. 38-39). It is the purpose of God to bring both to a “harvest,” then the good and bad will be separated, and then to establish the Kingdom in power and righteousness (vss, 41-43, 49).”<sup>1</sup>

**[There is no room in this interpretation for any form of completed or even partially inaugurated kingdom in the identity and life of the church prior to her translation and reward in heaven. Saved men do long for the fullness of Christ’s kingdom in this life but are subject to the limits of prophetic sequence. Only after Christ gathers to heaven His Body (translated as His Bride) and subsequently returns with her at the end of Tribulation does the full meaning and glory of the Kingdom flourish in the literal bodily reign of Christ Jesus from Jerusalem, with Israel again the head of the nations, and the church ruling and reigning with Christ. There is much that must transpire according to the harvesting of good and evil as described by McClain before the perfection of the Kingdom will be real.]**

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<sup>1</sup> Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom* (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1959), 17.