



Northwestern Shore of the Sea of Galilee

The "8" Parables of Jesus in Matthew 13

The use and purpose of parables by Jesus - "Sermon on the Sea"

The Greek word - "parabole" - what does it mean

A look at the the similar English word "parabola"

The dictionary definition

A mathematical word - formula

Figure 1

This is the first parable Jesus taught - the basis of understanding the rest

The Hebrew Scriptures and their parables

A measured correspondence to the images -

Figure 2

Methods of interpretation

Letting Jesus interpret the parables for you

Where not possible use the historic Hebrew cultural meanings

Finding the contextual biblical meanings - connecting the dots

Seeing the biblical structure - the corresponding parts -

Looking at the time frame of these parables -

These parables are how the kingdom is "between the advents"

Looking at the "curious pairings" found among the 8

Seeing the 8 parables as "1" teaching - the unity they provide

Jesus consistently asks if the "understand" these things

Matthew 13:13, 14, 15, 19

Understand = Gr. "syneimi" = to set or bring together

Bring together - the illustration & it's intended meaning

Dictionary Meaning

Parable – noun

1. A short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson.
2. A statement or comment that conveys a meaning indirectly by the use of comparison, analogy, or the like.

Parabola – noun in geometry

1. The curve formed by the set of points in a plane that are all equally distant from both a given line (called the directrix) and a given point (called the focus) that is not on the line.

Can be expressed as an equation: $y^2 = 2px$ or $x^2 = 2py$.

Word Origin: para "alongside"
+
bole "a throwing, casting, beam, ray"

In Latin Vulgate "parabola" took on the meaning "word"

hence Italian = parlare, French 'parler' "to speak."

We also get the word "parley" meaning 'a discussion or a conference' -
hence, Parliament [a whole lot of words]

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Do you "UNDERSTAND" these things ?

**συνίημι** = syniēmi = sun + niemi

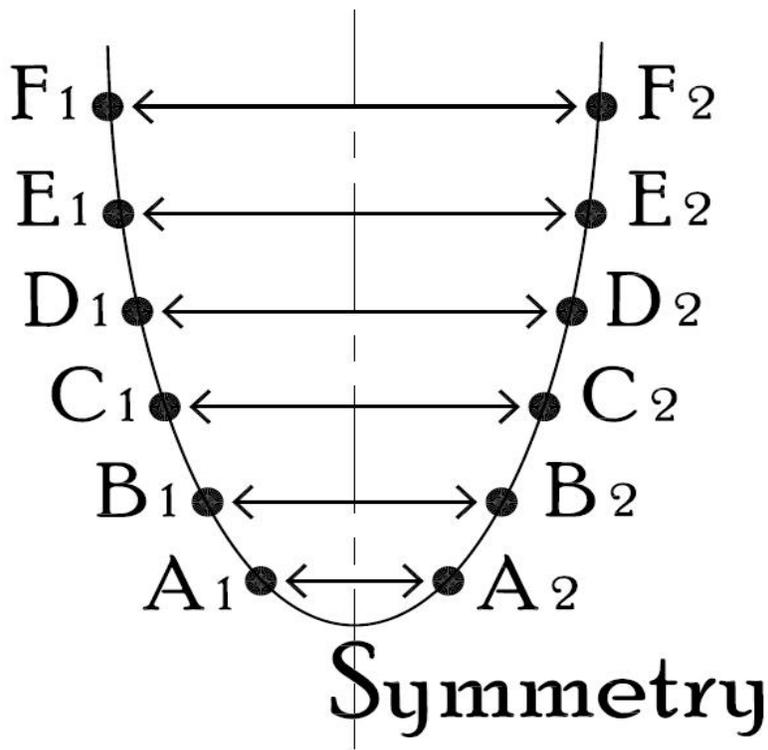
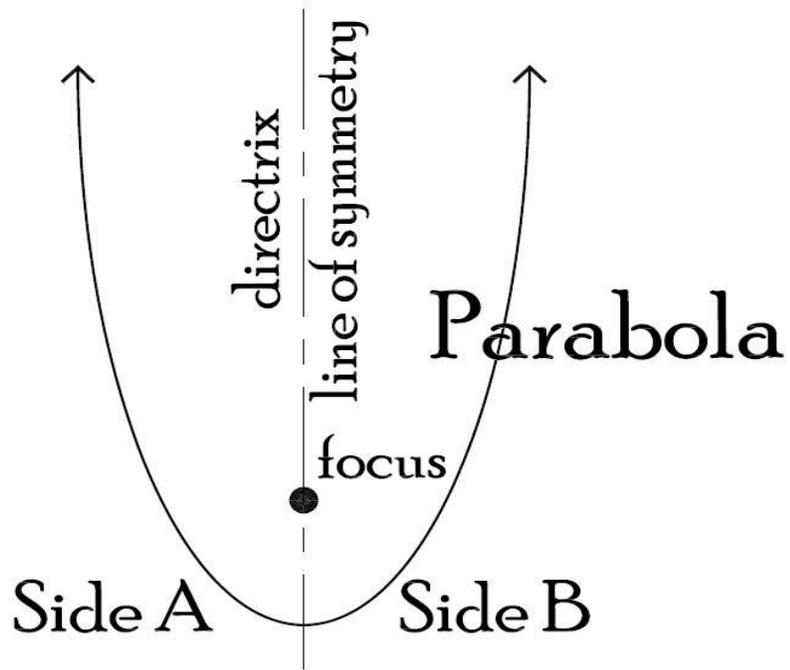
This word occurs 26 times in the NT - 6 times here - v 13, 14, 15, 19, 23 & 51

- 1) to set or bring together
  - a) in a hostile sense, of combatants
- 2) to put (as it were) the perception with the thing perceived
  - a) to set or join together in the mind  
primarily, "to bring or set together,"

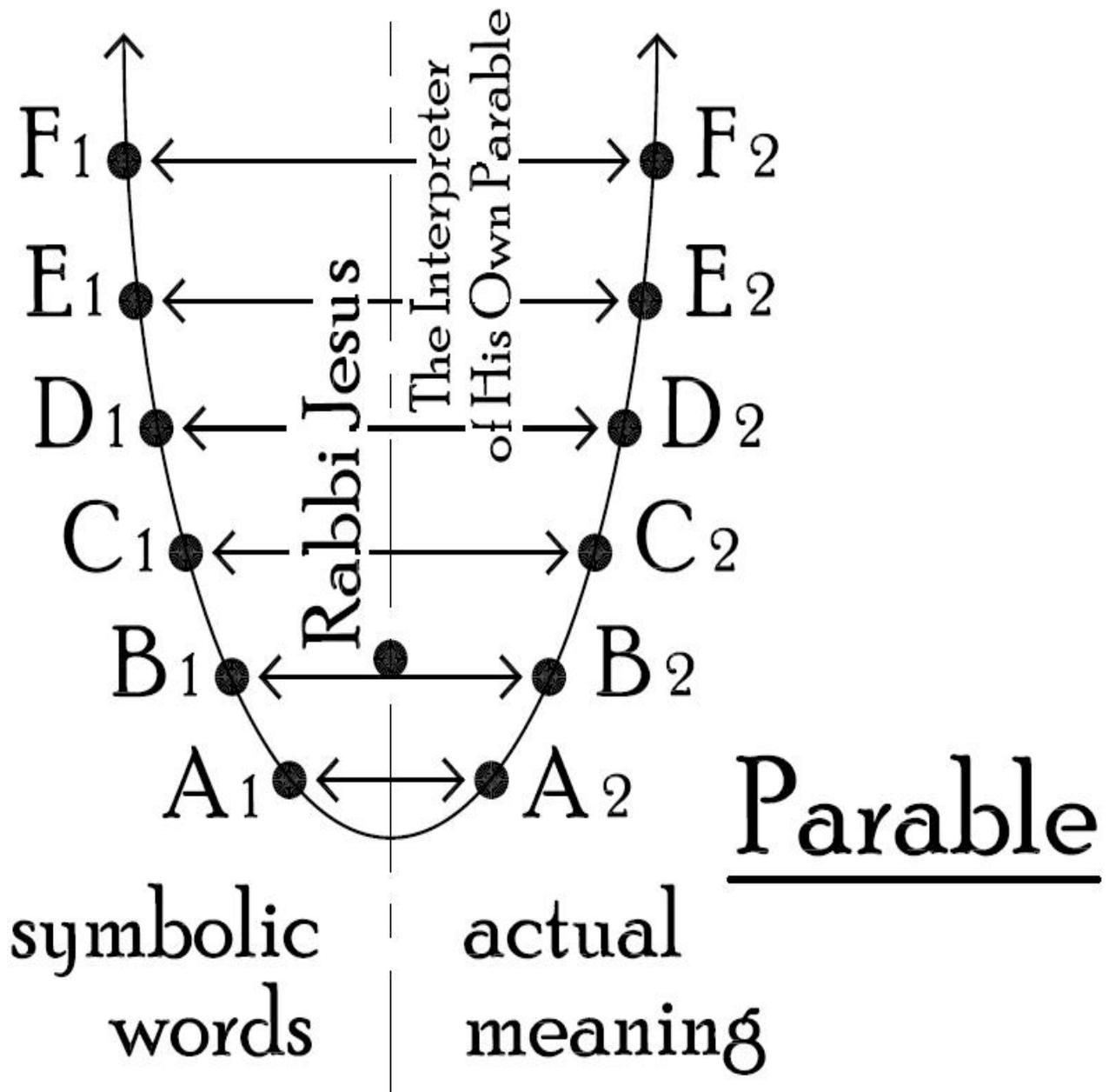
is used metaphorically of "perceiving, understanding, uniting" (*sun*), so to speak, the perception with what is perceived,

e.g., [Mat 13:13,14, 15, 19, 23, 51; 15:10; 16:12; 17:13,](#)

Diagrams of a Parabola



The Parables of Jesus



## 1 - Parable of the Sower

Jesus provide a foundation by which we can understand all parables

Mark 4:13

"Do you not understand this parable?

How then will you understand all the parables?"

Jesus is telling us to use this parable as a basis for the rest....

The use of the "seed" as the "word of the kingdom"

The idea of "sowing into the ground" shows up 4 times in the 8

The inherent power of something small and seemingly insignificant

The amazing seed cycle

seed - in soil - tiny sprout - grows up - flowers - fruits - seed in fruit

seeds demonstrates Yahweh's potential for abundance

Just as "man" is God's design, so are the seeds and the potential they have

The obstacles to success of a seed

a) External enemy activity leaves not opportunity

b) Internal enemy - love of the world and riches - not root within

c) External enemy - pressure from world and

"Seed" is symbolically the simple and profound way Jesus describes the life he has come to announce and desires to share with those who will to share this with him

Seed also applies to human reproduction

Seed of the Woman

Abraham's seed

Seed of David

Seed here symbolically represents spiritual reproduction by way of the "mere words" which is what the gospel is, but not "mere" at all, they have the potential to accomplish God's will and produce "new life" in the heart of the one who receives, believes and continues to have "the word" remain and grow in them

The Seed is "the Word of the Kingdom" which is

the way Kingdom participants are now added to what is still future

Jesus is the original sower....but by example we also can become sowers as we follow the example of "Our Lord"

**Parable 2 - The Wheat and Tares (darnel)**

Only here in [Matthew 13:24-30](#)

- "The Sower" = "The Son of Man" = Jesus the Messiah
- "The Field" = "The World"
- "The good seed" = "The Sons of the Kingdom"
- "The tares" = "The Sons of the Wicked One"
- "The Enemy Sower" = "The Devil"
- "The Tares burned" = "The End of the Age"
- "The Fire" = "Testing Judgement"
- "weeping and gnashing of teeth" = "sorrow and anguish"

What is a "tare"?

An inedible weed that looks like wheat but is a "parasite"

*Lolium temulentum*, typically known as darnel, cockle or tare, is an annual plant whose stem can grow up to 1 meter tall, with inflorescence in the ears and purple grain. It grows plentifully in Syria and Israel. It usually grows in the same production zones as wheat and is considered a weed. The similarity between these two plants is so extensive that in some regions cockle is referred to as *false wheat*. It bears a close resemblance to wheat until the ear appears. **The ears on the real wheat are so heavy that it makes the entire plant droop downward**, but *Lolium temulentum*, whose ears are light, stands up straight. The wheat will also appear brown when ripe, whereas the darnel is black. It parasitizes wheat fields. The French word for darnel is "ivraie" (from Latin "ebriacus"), which expresses that weed's characteristic of making one feel **poisoned with drunkenness, and can cause death**. This characteristic is also alluded to in the scientific name (Latin temulentus = drunk).

This parable establishes an important "timeline" for all these parables

|                                    |                                       |                                          |                                      |                             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Law and the Prophets Predict . . . | First Advent of the King Messiah born | Us here And NOW                          | Second Advent Of Messiah KoK and LoL | Kingdom Established Forever |
| The Kingdom In Shadow In Israel    | The Kingdom at Hand and among You     | The Kingdom as a "Mystery" as seed . . . | Millennial Kingdom 1,000 Years       | New Heavens New Earth       |

The seed is first "the word of the Kingdom" and in this parable becomes "the sons of the Kingdom", sown into the world awaiting the "harvest"

### Parable 3 - The Mustard Seed and its abnormal growth

Also in [Mark 4:30-32](#); [Luke 13:18-19](#)

Questions to be asked:

Why a "mustard seed"?

Who is the man?

What is "the herb"?

Why does it "become a tree"? What is the meaning of this?

Who are "the birds"?

What are "the branches"?

And what does it mean that "the birds nest in its branches"?

The Seed must be "the word of the Kingdom", as in Parable 1

The Man is Jesus, the sower, as in Parable 1 & 2

The herb is that which grows from the seed

the structure that grows out of the seed

An herb does not naturally or normally become tree!

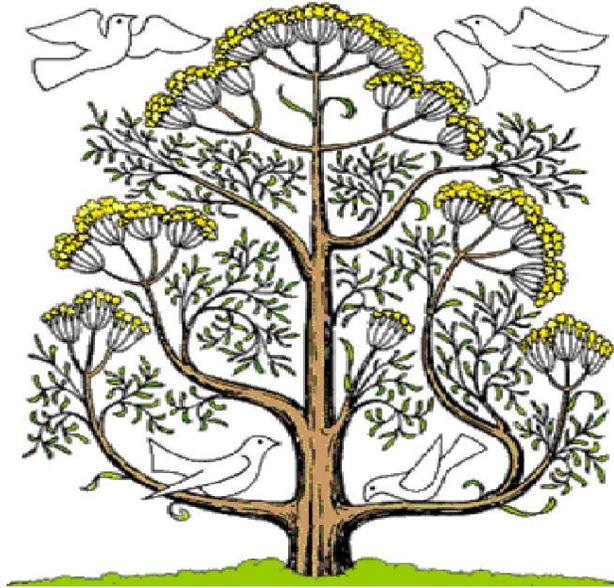
The tree is the abnormal growth the "structure" becomes

The Birds are the "agents of the Evil One", as in Parable 1

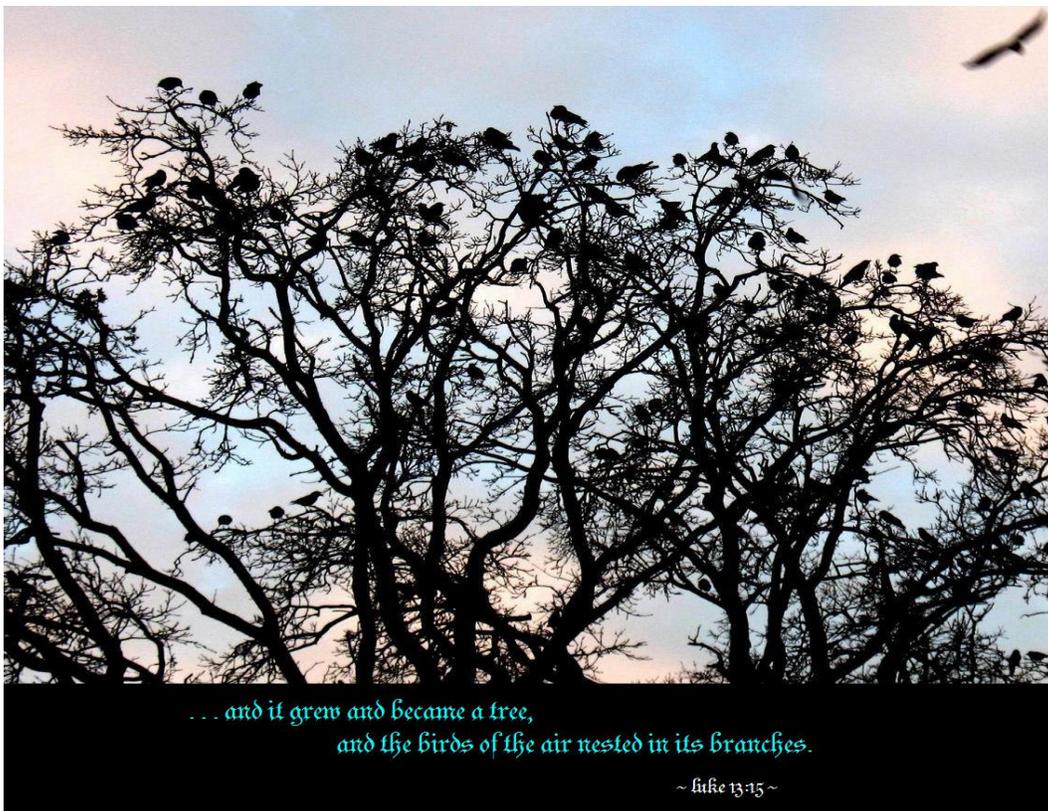
Includes their leadership and their doctrine



A field of Wild Mustard and a large Oak Tree in California  
(Mustard is a shall pungent edible herb, not a tree.)



"Orthodox" image of the mustard becoming a tree, with nice "holy spirit" type doves nesting in it's branches.



... and it grew and became a tree,  
and the birds of the air nested in its branches.

~ Luke 13:15 ~

"The Birds", as we know from the first Parable, are up to no good, they position themselves into the "fellowship of the Mystery" the branches of "churchianity" and promote wrong doctrine.

Has not this "prophecy" of the Lord Jesus come to pass?

## Parable 4 - The Woman and the Leaven

This parable also occurs in 2 gospels, [Matthew 13:33](#) and [Luke 13:20](#)

Who is the woman?

What is the leaven?

What are the 3 measures of meal?

No clues in the teaching of Jesus, except as to what the leaven is

In **Genesis 18**, Abraham meets 3 men by the terebinth trees of Mamre, after he has had Yahweh appear to him, and does this:

**6** So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said,  
"Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal;  
knead *it* and make cakes."

Abraham then shares a meal, has fellowship with them (3 angels, & God)

The 3 measures of meals represent the fellowship of believers with God

See also

**Judges 6:19** Gideon prepares an offering of a goat and an ephah of meal flour

Unleavened ! (ephah = three seahs (measures))

**1 Sam 1:24** Hannah offers 3 bulls, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine for Samuel

### **The significance of Leaven**

**Matthew 16:6, 11-12**

"Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees / Sadducees"

It is "the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees"

**Mark 8:15**

"Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees...and of Herod."

**Luke 12:1**

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**."

**1 Corinthians 5:6**

**Purge out the old leaven**, that you may be a new lump,  
**the leaven of malice and wickedness**,  
but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

**Galatians 5:9**

**A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**

Jesus is prophesying that leaven in the way of incorrect teaching will be fully introduced into the structure of fellowship his believers will form

This same "warning" is part of every writer of the New Testament,  
see attached list

**3 and 4** form a pair dealing with the intrusion of "evil doctrine" among believers

**5 and 6** form a pair dealing with the finding of something of great value

## Parable 5 - The Treasure in the Field

Only here in Matthew

What is the treasure?

What is the field?

Who is the Man?

Who is it that sells all he has?

**The orthodox thinking is that the treasure is the Gospel that we find  
I do not think this can be right**

**Exodus 19:5**

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

**Deuteronomy 7:6**

"For you are a holy people to Yahveh your God; Yahveh your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

**Deuteronomy 14:2**

For you are a holy people to Yahveh your God, and Yahveh has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

**Who is there among us that "have" and believe the Gospel of the Kingdom that has sold anything to "get it" ?**

**In fact we are told:**

**1 Corinthians 9:18**

What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.

**2 Corinthians 11:7**

Did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?

**Romans 5:15-7**

But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense* resulted in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses resulted in justification. Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

**The free gift, the Gospel and the life it allows us to participate in is FREE!  
That is to us...it did cost one man everything he had.....that is his life!**

## 6 - Parable of the One Pearl of Great Price

Who is the merchant?  
What is the Pearl?  
What is the Sea?  
Who is it that sells all he has?

A merchant is someone goes out from his home to trade for value

Pearls were something that the Hebrews historically did not value

Leviticus 11:9-11

<sup>10</sup> But all in the seas or in the rivers **that do not have fins and scales**, all that move in the water or any living thing which *is* in the water, **they are an abomination to you.** <sup>11</sup> **They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination.**

Pearls come out of an unclean animal, oysters.

Pearls are a result of a piece of sand that irritates an oyster.

Sand...a small particle that came from the land, perhaps?

"Sea" can be symbolic for "the nations" all around Israel, which is "the Land"  
We have an expression "the sea of humanity"

Revelation 13:1

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns,

Here in Revelation, the sea is symbolic of the nations of the world, of this "present evil age", as Paul says in Galatians

## 7 - Parable of the Dragnet

Why fish?  
Who are the good fish?  
When is the end of the age?

This parable, as seen in structure, obviously parallels parable 2

Fish, like the pearls, come out of the sea, out of the Nations

The good fish, like the wheat, are also "sons of the Kingdom" from the Sea

The bad fish, like the tares, are also "sons of the Evil One"

## 8 - Parable of the Scribes Treasure

Matthew 15:31

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."

Not normally thought of a parable....does it meet the definition?

The main opponents to Jesus were the Chief Priests, the rulers, the Sanhedrin,  
the Pharisees, the Lawyers, the Sadducees & the Scribes

Odd that the Romans or any other Gentiles are ever spoken as opposing Jesus  
In fact, Luke, "scribe" for a Gospel & Acts nearly always writes positively of Gentiles  
It was his own that received him not (John 1:11)

The term "scribe" in the New Testament brings to mind religion and  
doctrinal error - or unanswered questions....

The scribe was to be an informed person who could answers those  
questions and difficult interpretations of the Law

The most positive example of a scribe mentioned in the Bible is in  
Nehemiah 8

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the **Book of the Law of Moses**, which Yahweh had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup> So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who *could* hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then he read from it in the open square that *was* in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* to the Book of the Law.

<sup>4</sup> So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was *standing* above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

<sup>6</sup> And Ezra blessed Yahweh, the great God.

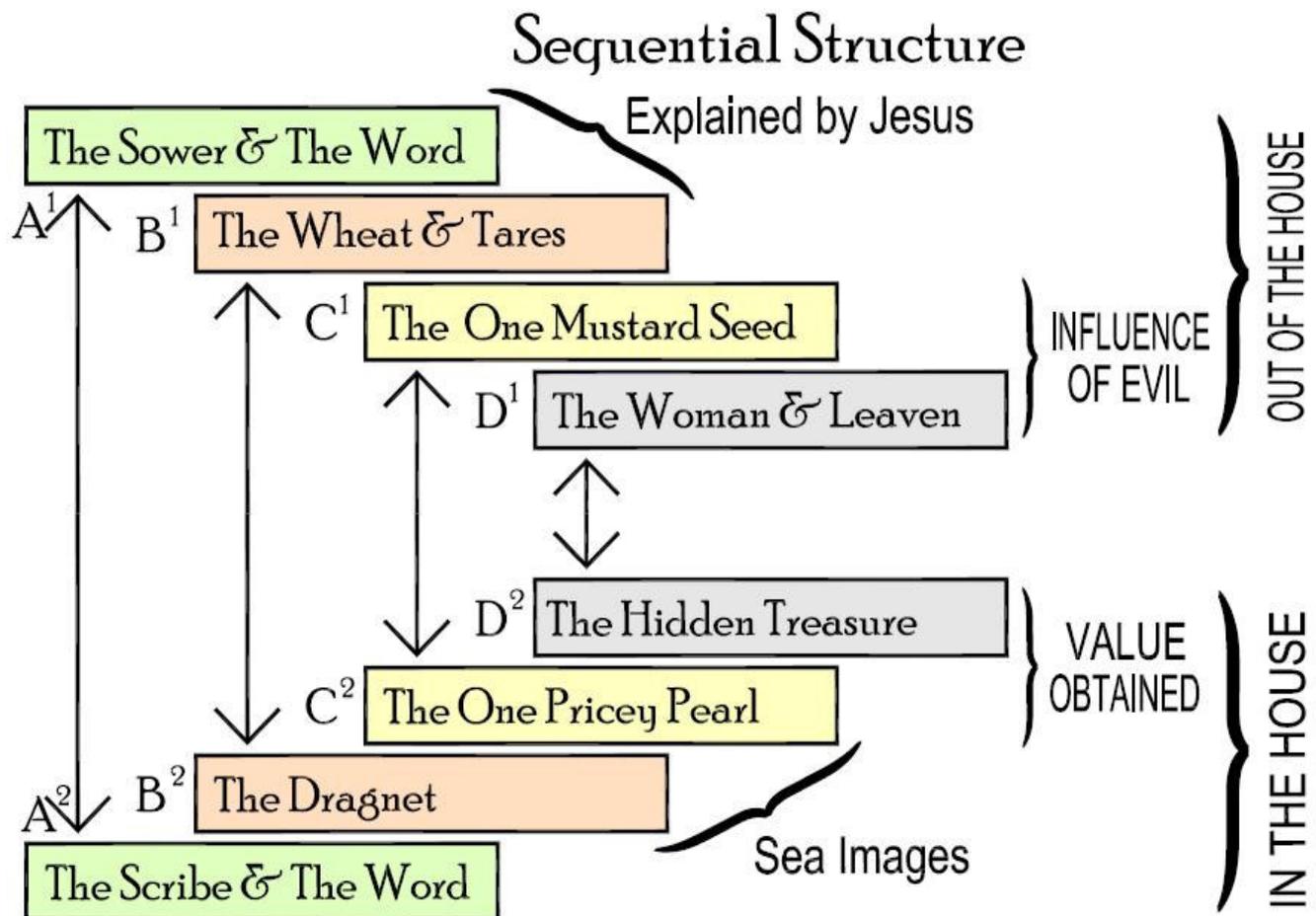
Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped Yahweh with *their* faces to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people *stood* in their place. <sup>8</sup> So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

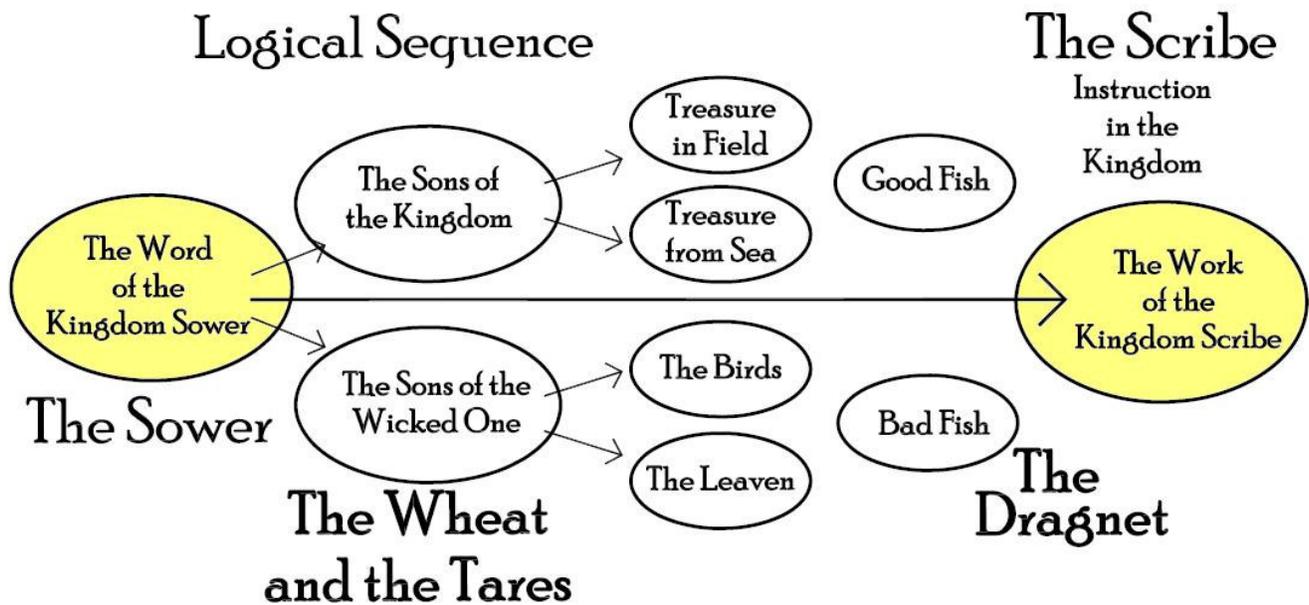
# ALL 8 - The Logical Pairs

|   |                     |                                   |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | The Sower           | - The Word taken to the World     |
| 8 | The Scribe          | - The Word kept inside the House  |
| 2 | The Wheat & Tares   | - The Harvest on the Land         |
| 7 | The Dragnet         | - The Harvest from the Sea        |
| 3 | The Mustard Seed    | - External Evil Influences        |
| 4 | The Leaven          | - Internal Evil Influences        |
| 5 | The Hidden Treasure | - Something of Value in the Land  |
| 6 | The Pricey Pearl    | - Something of Value from the Sea |

## Inter-relation of the 8 Parables



# Interrelation of the 8 Parables



The Logical Sequence points to begins and ends with the "practical teaching"  
See ovals highlighted in yellow

Notice how "the good" is above and "the bad" is below

The questions is

"How are we handling "the Word of the Kingdom" in the World

"How are we living like scribes, "instructed in the Kingdom"

May we ever pray, as Jesus instructed us:

**"Your Kingdom Come, Your will be done"**

~Matthew 6:10

And may we all say, in unison

**"Even so, Come Lord Jesus!"**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus, Messiah, be with you all.**

**Amen!**

~Revelation 22:20b-21