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The Kingdom of God Mk. 4:11

^{"mystery"}
~~In the O.T.~~ ^{In the Bible} The **KOG** refers to the reign & rule of ^{of GOD} God over human affairs - this world as a whole is not under the rule of God - it's a pretty sorry mess! ^{in the Garden of Eden} ~~since~~ ^{these} men revolted against God ^{of Adam} & gave the title deed of this world to Satan - so the Kog of God is His way of re-establishing His reign over these willing to be in His Kingdom

In the O.T. God predicts that He will come to rule in the person of the messiah over all the earth. But these parables, Jesus said, are about the "mystery" of the **KOG** → a hitherto unrevealed truth - a new truth not in the O.T. i.e. He would come twice - 1st as a servant and redeemer of mankind & 2nd as a ruling King

↪ The "mystery" is that the Church would be the means of God's rule on earth between His 1st + 2nd coming - and it would be "within you" → not an external powerful kingdom. So these parables reveal the ^① purpose of the Church, ^② how Christ is going to work thru the church & ^③ the sequence of the church age. These parables make it very clear what our role is as Christ's ambassadors - his fellow-workers here on earth. They also give us insight on what to expect from the ^{Kosmos} world around us during this period of the **KOG**. Last week we saw the **KOG** as His Word being ~~scattered~~ on diff. ^{kinds of} soils - i.e. the way in which people respond to God & His Truth.

② Let's turn to Mt. 13 + study the rest of these parables which illustrate the ^(a) opposition & ^(b) growth of the church - God's Kingdom on earth today. God's adversary on earth is Satan - the ~~whole~~ issue of this warfare starts in the garden of Eden & runs thru the whole Bible - "Satan is alive & well on planet earth" - and John tells us Christ came to earth to "destroy the power & work of Satan" - so we need to understand how he Satan works & how he fights against the KOG today. And that means ^{he fights you} you as a member of God's Kingdom. Mt. 13: 24-30 - wheat & tares ^{my}

- Tares = darnell ^(v. 35) "no harvest - enemy did this" exp. (v. 36-43) The new revelation in this parable is not the opposition of Satan, but rather ~~what~~ what happens before the harvest at the end of the age (i.e.) that not only will the KOG grow, but the enemy's opposition & kingdom will be side by side growing along with the church. This makes a difference for us today. 2 applications

① The world is not going to get better as we get near to Christ's return - instead there will be a deterioration of world affairs & a greater degree of opposition as time goes on. ^{but also} The gospel will continue to grow & spread, that is our mission & Christ says He will empower us to grow His church. But at the same time the intensity & degree of opposition will increase. Turn to Mt. 24: 3-12 - not progressively getting spiritual, turning to God

to do term to do it + study the rest of the
 paragraphs which illustrate the opposition
 of the church - Cook's Kingdom or such today
 (both of these are in context is Satan - the
 issue of this warfare is in the power of
 a man from the whole world - Satan is
 a man on planet earth - and Satan is
 Christ came to earth to "destroy the power of
 Satan" - so we need to understand how
 "Satan" + how he fights against the Kingdom
 and that we need to understand how he
 fights against the Kingdom + how he
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3) 2nd appl.

2. Mt. 24:14 - Gospel must be taken to every ethnic group. ^{Here in Mt.} This is not a parable, but rather Christ is telling his disciples the actual events + atmosphere of the church age.

i.e. It is normal for the church to be persecuted by Christ's enemy (the one who sowed the tares in Christ's wheat field). ^{Here in the U.S.} We are living in a very abnormal situation in a country where Xianity is tolerated. The majority of the church today is being persecuted & that's where it is growing so fast. ^{the K.O.G.} We are wimpy + lukewarm + selfish + not caring + not committed to Christ + His Kingdom precisely because the church is tolerated. We are indifferent to Christ as the non-Xians all around us - we don't care about Christ and we don't care about them not knowing Him. All we care about is ourselves - our own comfort - our fun - our jobs - our clothes - making ourselves feel good - being stimulated by one more experience. Why should Satan fight the church in America? - it's impotent - lukewarm - not growing. Satan has us just where he wants us: - so enmeshed in his world system that his tares have ^{almost} choked out the wheat of the K.O.G. - there's no harvest - no grain - no multiplication. This wheat field got oungrown by the tares of Satan's kingdom + we don't even care - the tares look just like our wheat + we don't care that there is no grain - no harvest - no growth - no multiplication.