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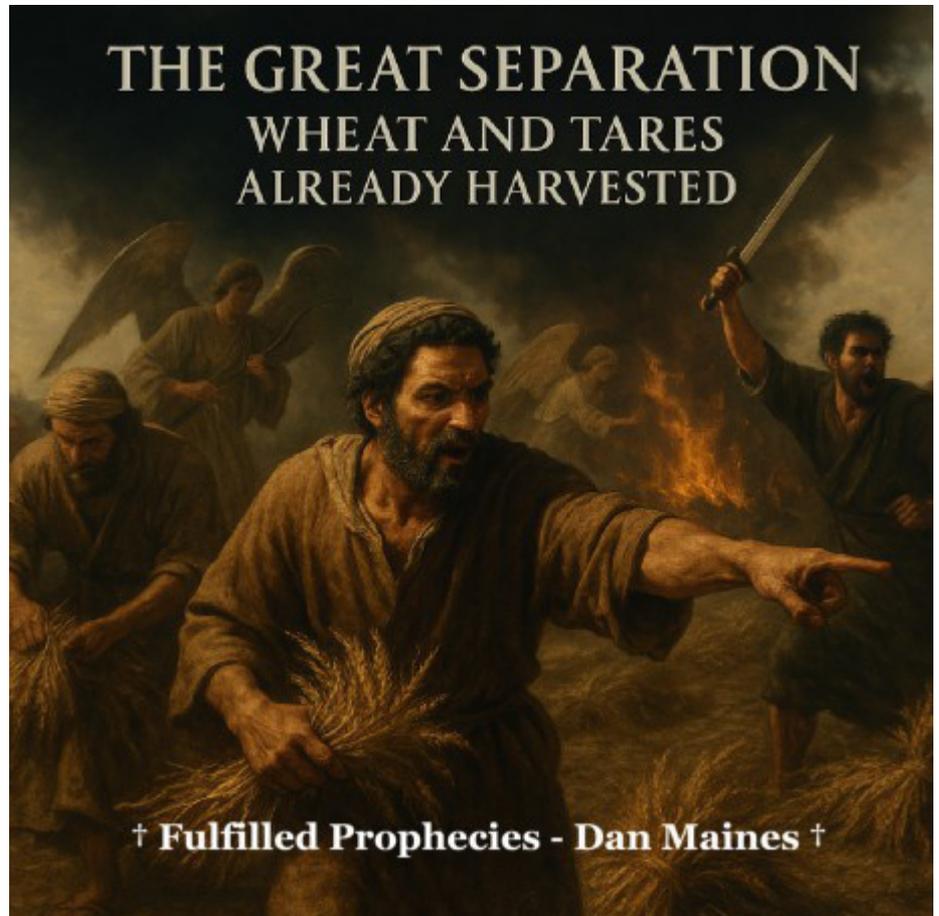
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## The Great Separation: Wheat And Tares Already Harvested



By Dan Maines

## The Great Separation: Wheat And Tares Already Harvested

### Introduction

When Jesus taught the parable of the wheat and the tares, He wasn't talking about the end of planet earth. He was talking about the end of the Old Covenant age that His generation was living in. The harvest wasn't about the destruction of the physical world. It was about the judgment that removed the wicked from the covenant and gathered the faithful into the kingdom. Jesus tied every part of this parable to the end of their

age, not ours.

### **Matthew 13:24-30**

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and left. And when the wheat sprouted and produced grain, then the tares also became evident. And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field, how then does it have tares. And he said to them, An enemy has done this. The slaves said to him, Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up. But he said, No, for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest, and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up, but gather the wheat into my barn.

† Jesus said the wheat and tares grew in the same field because this was about Israel. The faithful remnant and the covenant breakers lived side by side in the same covenant world.

† The enemy sowed tares while the servants slept, showing how corruption entered Israel before the generation of Jesus.

† Jesus told them not to separate the two groups until the harvest because the judgment had a set time. It wasn't ongoing. It had an appointed day tied to the end of the age.

† The order is clear. First the tares are gathered and burned, then the wheat is gathered into the barn. This matches the covenant judgment that fell on Jerusalem and the deliverance of the saints in AD 70.

† Jesus said the tares were removed first. This matches what happened in the Jewish War. The wicked were trapped, judged, and burned, while the faithful had already escaped to safety. The order's exact.

## **Matthew 13:36-43**

Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field. And He said, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world, and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom, and the tares are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear.

† Jesus gave the timing Himself. The harvest is the end of the age. He wasn't talking about our age. He was talking about the end of the Old Covenant age, the same age the disciples asked about in Matthew 24:3.

† Jesus tied every judgment parable to His own generation. He said all these things would come on that generation, not a future one (Matthew 23:36). The separation of the wheat and tares can't be moved beyond the timeframe Jesus already set.

† Jesus said the tares were gathered out of His kingdom first. The wicked were removed. The righteous stayed. This is the opposite of futurism.

† The furnace of fire is covenant judgment language straight from the prophets. It describes the destruction that befell the covenant breakers, not the end of the physical cosmos.

† The righteous shining as the sun is the fulfillment of Daniel 12:3, which also had a first century deadline. Jesus was quoting Daniel to show the separation would happen when that age closed.

† Daniel was told the resurrection and the shining of the righteous would happen when the power of the holy people was

shattered (Daniel 12:7). That happened in AD 70, confirming Jesus' interpretation and the timing of the harvest.

† The angels Jesus spoke of were the same covenant messengers used throughout scripture to carry out judgment. They operated through the events of the Roman siege just like angels acted through nations in the Old Testament.

† Revelation 14 uses the same harvest language to describe the judgment of the land. John was seeing the same event Jesus described, the separation at the end of the Old Covenant age.

† Jesus ended with The one who has ears, let him hear because He knew many would ignore His timing. But He made it unmistakably clear. The separation already happened.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus recorded the exact covenant division Jesus described. The lawless, violent factions inside Jerusalem were destroyed, burned, and cut off, while the faithful followers of Christ escaped to safety.

† Eusebius said the judgment on Jerusalem was the fulfillment of everything Jesus prophesied in these parables and warnings.

† Early Christian writings confirm that the believers understood the destruction of Jerusalem as God removing the wicked from His kingdom.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

We're not living in a world waiting for the wheat and tares to be separated. The separation already happened. The end of the age has already come. We live in the kingdom where the righteous shine, where Christ reigns, and where God dwells with His people. The harvest isn't future. It's complete. We're living in the world that remains after the Old Covenant was removed and the New Covenant stands forever.

† We're not waiting for a final separation. Jesus already finished it. The harvest's behind us, and the kingdom's fully open today.

# † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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## Source Index

† Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Matthew 24:3, 23-36, Daniel 12:3, Daniel 12:7, Revelation 14

† Josephus, The Jewish War

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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