

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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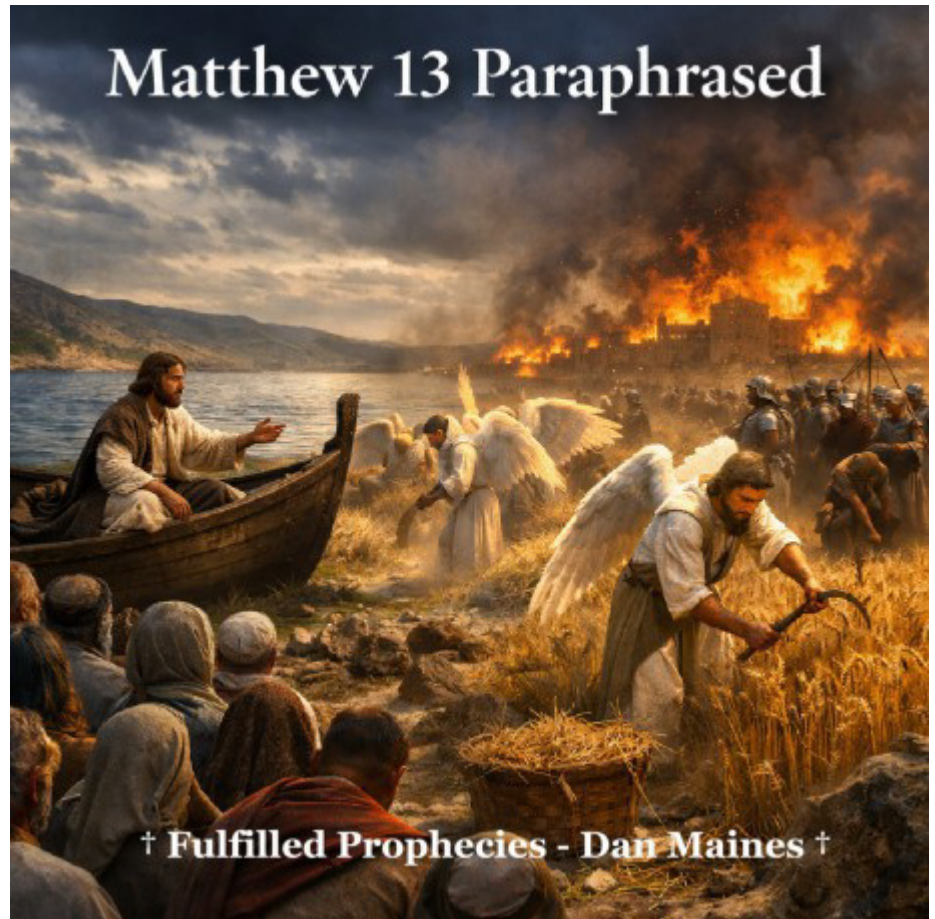
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## Matthew 13 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Matthew 13 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Matthew 13 records a turning point in Jesus' ministry. From this point forward he begins teaching the crowds in parables that reveal the nature of the kingdom of heaven while exposing the blindness of those rejecting him (Matthew 13:10-17).

† The parables explain why many in Israel rejected the message while others received it. The kingdom would grow quietly among the people until the coming judgment that would separate the righteous from the wicked (Matthew 13:39-43).

† Jesus was speaking directly to the generation that would soon face covenant judgment. The kingdom message was spreading throughout Israel before the destruction that would come upon Jerusalem (Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34).

### **Matthew 13:1**

That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.

† The Sea of Galilee was a common place where Jesus taught large crowds because the shoreline created a natural gathering place (Mark 4:1).

† The growing crowds show how widely the message of the kingdom was spreading throughout Israel (Matthew 4:25).

† This moment shows the public proclamation of the kingdom before the coming judgment on that generation (Matthew 10:23).

### **Matthew 13:2**

And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

† Rabbis commonly sat while teaching, which showed authority and instruction (Luke 5:3).

† The boat allowed Jesus to speak clearly to the large crowd gathered along the shore.

† The scene demonstrates how eager many were to hear his teaching even though many would not accept its meaning (John 12:37).

### **Matthew 13:3**

And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

† A sower scattering seed was a familiar agricultural image in Galilee.

† The seed represents the message of the kingdom being

spread throughout Israel (Luke 8:11).

† The parable explains why people responded differently to the same message.

### **Matthew 13:4**

And as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

† The hardened path represents hearts that refuse to receive the message (Matthew 13:19).

† The birds symbolize the enemy removing truth before it takes root.

† Many in Israel heard Jesus but rejected him immediately (John 1:11).

### **Matthew 13:5**

Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

† Rocky soil represents shallow belief without deep commitment (Matthew 13:20).

† Quick emotional responses often fail when tested by hardship.

† Many followers abandoned Jesus when his teaching became difficult (John 6:66).

### **Matthew 13:6**

But when the sun had risen, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away.

† The scorching sun represents persecution or pressure (Matthew 13:21).

† Faith that lacks roots cannot survive opposition.

† Early believers experienced persecution as the gospel spread through Israel (Acts 8:1).

### **Matthew 13:7**

Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and

choked them out.

† Thorns represent the worries and distractions of the world (Matthew 13:22).

† Love of wealth and worldly concerns often suffocate spiritual growth (Matthew 6:24).

† Many religious leaders in Israel loved status and wealth more than truth (Luke 16:14).

### **Matthew 13:8**

And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

† Good soil represents those who truly receive the message (Matthew 13:23).

† The different yields show that fruitfulness varies among believers.

† The gospel multiplied rapidly among receptive hearts in the first century (Acts 6:7).

### **Matthew 13:9**

The one who has ears, let him hear.

† Jesus was calling for spiritual understanding.

† Many heard the words but refused the meaning.

† True understanding requires humility before God.

### **Matthew 13:10**

And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do You speak to them in parables?

† The disciples recognized that Jesus was intentionally teaching in symbolic stories.

† They wanted to understand the reason for this method.

† Jesus would explain that parables both reveal and conceal truth.

### **Matthew 13:11**

And Jesus answered them, To you it has been granted to know

the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

† The mysteries refer to truths about God's kingdom now being revealed (Ephesians 3:3-6).

† The disciples received understanding because they followed Jesus.

† Those rejecting him remained blind to the meaning.

### **Matthew 13:12**

For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance, but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

† Those who respond to truth gain deeper understanding.

† Those who reject truth lose even the light they once had.

† Israel's rejection of Christ resulted in the loss of covenant privilege (Matthew 21:43).

### **Matthew 13:13**

Therefore I speak to them in parables, because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

† Israel's spiritual blindness prevented them from understanding the message.

† Parables exposed the hardness of their hearts.

† Their rejection fulfilled prophetic warnings about the nation.

### **Matthew 13:14**

And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, You will keep on hearing, but will not understand, and you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive.

† Jesus applied Isaiah's prophecy directly to his generation.

† Israel's leaders heard the truth yet refused to believe it.

† Their rejection confirmed the prophetic warning of blindness (Isaiah 6:9-10).

### **Matthew 13:15**

For the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.

† The problem was not lack of evidence but hardened hearts.

† Repentance would have brought restoration.

† Israel's leadership hardened the nation against the Messiah.

### **Matthew 13:16**

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

† The disciples were witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy.

† They saw the Messiah and the kingdom unfolding before them.

† This was a privilege that earlier generations longed to see.

### **Matthew 13:17**

For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

† Prophets spoke about the coming Messiah centuries earlier.

† The disciples were living in the moment those prophecies were fulfilled.

† The kingdom had arrived in their generation.

### **Matthew 13:18**

Hear then the parable of the sower.

† Jesus now begins explaining the meaning of the earlier story.

† The explanation reveals the spiritual conditions of those hearing the message.

† This interpretation shows that the parable describes responses to the gospel.

### **Matthew 13:19**

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

† The hardened heart prevents truth from taking root.

† The enemy quickly removes the message from those who reject it.

† This explains why some people hear the gospel but never respond.

### **Matthew 13:20**

And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.

† Emotional excitement can look like genuine faith at first.

† Without strong roots the faith will not endure trials.

† Many temporary followers of Jesus eventually turned away.

### **Matthew 13:21**

yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

† Jesus explains that shallow belief cannot survive suffering.

When hardship comes because of the message, temporary faith collapses (Matthew 10:22).

† Many in the first century believed briefly but turned away when persecution began against the followers of Christ (John 6:66).

† This shows the difference between emotional excitement and true faith that endures (James 1:12).

### **Matthew 13:22**

And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the

deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

† Worldly anxiety and the pursuit of wealth often prevent spiritual growth (Matthew 6:24-25).

† The Pharisees were known for loving money while claiming to follow God (Luke 16:14).

† Jesus warns that devotion to material things can suffocate the truth before it produces fruit.

### **Matthew 13:23**

And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

† Good soil represents receptive hearts that truly receive the kingdom message (Luke 8:15).

† Fruitfulness varies among believers, but true faith always produces spiritual results (John 15:5).

† The early church multiplied rapidly because receptive hearts spread the gospel across the Roman world (Acts 6:7).

### **Matthew 13:24**

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

† This parable introduces another picture of the kingdom's growth and conflict.

† The good seed represents those belonging to the kingdom (Matthew 13:38).

† The story prepares listeners to understand that evil will exist alongside righteousness until judgment.

### **Matthew 13:25**

But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed

weeds among the wheat, and left.

† The enemy represents the devil working against the kingdom (Matthew 13:39).

† The weeds symbolize false followers or corrupt influences among the people.

† Jesus shows that opposition to the kingdom would arise even among those claiming to belong to God's people.

### **Matthew 13:26**

But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds became evident also.

† At first the difference between wheat and weeds may not appear obvious.

† Over time the true nature of each becomes visible.

† The same principle applies to spiritual fruit revealing genuine faith (Galatians 5:22-23).

### **Matthew 13:27**

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 weeds?

† The servants are confused because the field was originally planted with good seed.

† Their question reflects the common concern about why evil exists alongside good.

† Jesus is preparing to explain the presence of false believers and wicked influences.

### **Matthew 13:28**

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?

† The landowner identifies the enemy as the cause of the corruption.

† The servants want to remove the weeds immediately.

† This reflects the human desire to eliminate evil quickly without understanding the consequences.

### **Matthew 13:29**

But he said, No, for while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.

† Premature judgment could harm the faithful.

† The kingdom would allow both the righteous and the wicked to exist together temporarily.

† God's timing determines when final separation will occur (Ecclesiastes 3:17).

### **Matthew 13:30**

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 weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.

† The harvest represents a coming judgment where separation occurs (Matthew 13:39).

† In the fulfilled perspective, this points to the covenant judgment that came upon Israel in that generation.

† The righteous would be gathered into the kingdom while the wicked would face destruction.

### **Matthew 13:31**

He presented another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field.

† The mustard seed was extremely small yet capable of remarkable growth.

† Jesus uses this image to show how the kingdom would begin quietly but expand widely.

† The early church began with a small group yet spread rapidly across the world (Acts 1:15; Acts 17:6).

### **Matthew 13:32**

And this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches.

† The dramatic growth illustrates the expansion of God's kingdom.

† The birds nesting in the branches symbolize the inclusion of the nations (Ezekiel 17:23).

† What began as a small movement among disciples would grow into a worldwide community of believers.

### **Matthew 13:33**

He spoke another parable to them, The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour until it was all leavened.

† Leaven spreads quietly but completely through the dough.

† This illustrates the hidden but powerful influence of the kingdom.

† The gospel gradually transformed communities throughout the Roman Empire (Colossians 1:6).

### **Matthew 13:34**

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable.

† Parables became Jesus' primary method of public teaching during this period.

† This approach revealed truth to sincere listeners while concealing it from hardened hearts.

† The method fulfilled prophetic expectations.

### **Matthew 13:35**

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: I will open My mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the foundation of the world.

† This prophecy comes from Psalm 78:2.

† Jesus revealed truths about the kingdom that had been hidden for generations.

† The Messiah was unveiling God's plan that had been unfolding since the beginning.

### **Matthew 13:36**

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 weeds of the field.

† The disciples wanted a clearer explanation of the earlier story.

† Private instruction allowed Jesus to reveal deeper meaning.

† This moment shows the difference between the curious crowd and committed followers.

### **Matthew 13:37**

And He said, The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

† Jesus identifies himself as the sower.

† The Son of Man title connects to the prophecy of Daniel 7:13-14.

† The kingdom message originates directly from Christ.

### **Matthew 13:38**

And the field is the world, and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom, and the weeds are the sons of the evil one.

† The field represents the broader world where the kingdom message spreads.

† The good seed represents believers who belong to the kingdom.

† The weeds represent those aligned with evil and opposed to God's truth.

### **Matthew 13:39**

and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

† The enemy is clearly identified as the devil.

† The end of the age refers to the close of the Old Covenant age that culminated in the first century judgment (Matthew 24:3).

† Angels act as agents carrying out God's judgment.

### **Matthew 13:40**

So just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

† Jesus describes the final separation between the righteous and the wicked.

† In the fulfilled perspective this judgment corresponds to the destruction that came upon apostate Israel.

† The imagery of fire represents divine judgment against rebellion.

### **Matthew 13:41**

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.

† Jesus explains that a decisive separation would take place when the Son of Man exercised judgment (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Stumbling blocks refers to those who caused others to sin or who opposed the truth of the kingdom (Matthew 18:7).

† This gathering out points to the removal of corrupt leadership and unbelief from among God's people during the covenant judgment that came upon that generation (Matthew 23:36).

### **Matthew 13:42**

and will throw them into the furnace of fire, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

† The furnace of fire is imagery used repeatedly by Jesus to

describe severe covenant judgment (Matthew 22:13).

† Weeping and gnashing of teeth describes the anguish of those facing the consequences of rejecting the Messiah (Luke 13:28).

† In the fulfilled perspective this language reflects the devastating judgment that fell upon Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matthew 24:21).

### **Matthew 13:43**

Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear.

† This echoes Daniel 12:3 where the righteous shine like the brightness of the heavens.

† The faithful would be revealed openly as citizens of the kingdom after judgment removed the corrupt system.

† Jesus again calls for spiritual awareness, urging listeners to truly understand the warning.

### **Matthew 13:44**

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again, and from joy over it he goes and sells everything that he has and buys that field.

† The kingdom is portrayed as something so valuable that it surpasses all earthly possessions (Philippians 3:8).

† The man gladly sacrifices everything because he recognizes the incomparable worth of what he found.

† Jesus is teaching that entering the kingdom requires wholehearted commitment and priority.

### **Matthew 13:45**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls.

† Merchants searched carefully for pearls of great value in the ancient world.

† This picture represents someone actively seeking truth and recognizing its worth.

† The kingdom message draws those who sincerely search for God's wisdom (Proverbs 2:4-5).

### **Matthew 13:46**

and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold everything that he had and bought it.

† The pearl represents the priceless value of the kingdom.

† The merchant's decision shows that gaining the kingdom outweighs all other pursuits.

† True discipleship involves surrendering everything for Christ (Luke 14:33).

### **Matthew 13:47**

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind.

† The dragnet represents the wide reach of the gospel message.

† The kingdom call would gather people from many backgrounds and nations.

† Not everyone gathered would ultimately belong to the kingdom.

### **Matthew 13:48**

and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach, and they sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.

† Fishermen sorted their catch after pulling in the net.

† This sorting represents the final separation between the righteous and the wicked.

† Judgment reveals who truly belongs to the kingdom.

### **Matthew 13:49**

So it will be at the end of the age, the angels will come forth and

take out the wicked from among the righteous.

† Again Jesus refers to the end of the age, meaning the end of the Old Covenant age (Matthew 24:3).

† Angels serve as agents of divine judgment and separation.

† The wicked would be removed from among God's people during the covenant transition.

### **Matthew 13:50**

and will throw them into the furnace of fire, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

† This repeats the earlier imagery of judgment from verse 42.

† Jesus emphasizes the seriousness of rejecting the kingdom.

† The language reflects the catastrophic judgment that befell Jerusalem and its leadership.

### **Matthew 13:51**

Have you understood all these things? They said to Him, Yes.

† Jesus challenges the disciples to reflect on what they have learned.

† Understanding these parables meant recognizing how the kingdom would unfold.

† Their answer shows growing comprehension of Jesus' teaching.

### **Matthew 13:52**

And Jesus said to them, Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.

† A disciple trained in the kingdom understands both the Old Testament and the new revelation in Christ.

† The old treasures represent the scriptures already given.

† The new treasures represent the fulfillment revealed through Jesus.

### **Matthew 13:53**

When Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there.

† This marks the conclusion of this extended teaching section.

† Matthew often records transitions like this when one teaching block ends (Matthew 7:28).

† Jesus now moves to another location as his ministry continues.

### **Matthew 13:54**

He came to His hometown and began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?

† Jesus returned to Nazareth where he had grown up.

† The people recognized his wisdom but struggled to accept his authority.

† Familiarity often led people to dismiss his true identity (Luke 4:22).

### **Matthew 13:55**

Is this not the carpenter's son? Is His mother not called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

† The townspeople focused on Jesus' earthly family instead of recognizing his divine mission.

† Knowing his background caused them to underestimate him.

† This reflects how human expectations often obscure spiritual truth.

### **Matthew 13:56**

And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?

† Their question shows their disbelief that someone they knew could possess such wisdom.

† Instead of accepting the evidence, they questioned his authority.

† This skepticism reveals the hardness of unbelief.

### **Matthew 13:57**

And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them, A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.

† Jesus states a principle seen throughout history.

† Prophets were often rejected by those closest to them (Jeremiah 11:21).

† Familiarity caused the people of Nazareth to overlook who he truly was.

### **Matthew 13:58**

And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

† Unbelief limited their willingness to receive what Jesus offered.

† The lack of faith prevented them from experiencing the full demonstration of his power.

† This verse highlights how rejection closes the door to the blessings of the kingdom.

### **Historical References**

† Josephus described the widespread expectation of God's kingdom during the first century and the turmoil that followed leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Eusebius wrote that early Christians understood Jesus' warnings about judgment as referring to the events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that the parables of Jesus revealed spiritual truth to believers while exposing the blindness of unbelievers.

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

† The parables remind us that hearing the message of the

kingdom requires a sincere and receptive heart.

† We must guard against distractions, shallow belief, and worldly priorities that can choke spiritual growth.

† The kingdom remains the greatest treasure we can pursue, worth more than anything this world offers.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** What does the end of the age mean in Matthew 13?

**A** The end of the age refers to the close of the Old Covenant age that culminated in the judgment upon Jerusalem, as Jesus described in Matthew 24:3 and Matthew 24:34.

**Q** Why did Jesus use parables?

**A** Jesus used parables to reveal truth to receptive hearts while concealing it from hardened listeners, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 6:9-10.

**Q** What does the harvest represent?

**A** The harvest represents the time of separation when God judges the wicked and gathers the righteous, as explained in Matthew 13:39-43.

**Q** [\*\*Share on Facebook\*\*](#)

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