

Matthew 13:30 Which Comes

First

Lesson 10

Jesus' First Steps Upon His Return

- Let's review a harmony of Scripture which is written in parallel columns in the charts following this page.
- The basis for this analysis is the Parables of the Tares in [Matthew 13:30](#)
- This harmony reveals an amazingly consistent pattern which uncovers a surprising fact.
 - The moment Christ returns to earth after the tribulation, He does not gather any believers in any way.
 - No gathering of believers occurs until well *after* Christ sets His foot upon the earth!
 - Let's review Jesus' actions that Scripture says he'll do immediately upon His return.
 - Before The Harvest
 - The Decision
 - Gathering of the Wicked
 - Gathering of the Righteous
 - End of The Harvest

Before The Harvest

	The Time of Harvest			
	Matthew 13:30, 40-42, 49	Revelation 14:14-20	Mark 13:26-27	Revelation 13:5; 20:6; Daniel 12:7, 11, 12-13
Before the Harvest	Let both grow together			<p>And power was given unto him to continue forty and two months [1260 days].</p> <p>It shall be for a time, times, and an half [1260 days]; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.</p>

The Decision

	The Time of Harvest			
	Matthew 13:30, 40-42, 49	Revelation 14:14-20	Mark 13:26-27	Revelation 13:5; 20:6; Daniel 12:7, 11, 12-13
The Decision	until the harvest :	And I looked, and behold a white cloud , and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angle came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud , Thrust in they sickle, and reap : for the time is come for the to reap ; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped .	And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.	

Gathering Of The Wicked

	The Time of Harvest			
	Matthew 13:30, 40-42, 49	Revelation 14:14-20	Mark 13:26-27	Revelation 13:5; 20:6; Daniel 12:7, 11, 12-13
Gathering Of The Wicked	and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity (and sever the wicked from among the just); And shall cast them into a furnace of fire : there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.	And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire ; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe: And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.		

Gathering Of The Righteous

	The Time of Harvest			
	Matthew 13:30, 40-42, 49	Revelation 14:14-20	Mark 13:26-27	Revelation 13:5; 20:6; Daniel 12:7, 11, 12-13
Gathering Of The Righteous	but gather the wheat		And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth	And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

The Harvest Ended

	The Time of Harvest			
	Matthew 13:30, 40-42, 49	Revelation 14:14-20	Mark 13:26-27	Revelation 13:5; 20:6; Daniel 12:7, 11, 12-13
The Harvest Ended	into my barn	to the uttermost part of heaven		<p>Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.</p> <p>Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.</p> <p>Thou (Daniel and Old Testament saints) shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.</p>

The Order Of Gathering

- The crucial passage in the harmony is the parable of the tares in [Matthew 13](#), because this clearly puts the gathering of the wicked *first*, before the gathering of the righteous. Many additional Scripture references concur.
- "Gather ye together *first* the tares." What does this mean?
- The order of gatherings is crucial, because the order helps define when the Rapture occurs.
- *The Post-tribs* position states the righteous are raptured "from among" the wicked at the end of the tribulation.
- But Jesus says that at that time the angels shall "sever the wicked from among the just." According to Jesus, the wicked are gathered first.
- They both can't be right.

Jesus Explains The Tares Parable

- Often, we do not even have to interpret the Bible, because the interpretation is given right there.
- Jesus Himself explains
- "the field is the world." The field is not the church.
- According to Jesus the tares represent people in the world, not the church only.
- He further explains that the tares are "the children of the wicked one." This encompasses all unbelievers the world over.

Jesus Explains The Tares Parable (2)

- If the wheat is all the believers, it is consistent for the tares to be all the unbelievers in the whole world.
- Is the Order Important? Jesus made a special point to say the tares are gathered *first* when He could just as easily have said the opposite or not have made a point of it at all.
- In the companion parable of the fishnet, the angels "sever the wicked from among [literally, *out of the midst of*] the just" ([Matthew 13:49](#)). The order is repeated. It must be real.
- The time of burning the tares is irrelevant. The order of gatherings is what counts.

The Tares

- Part of the post-tribulation position states that the tares represent only a *portion* of the wicked. This supposedly allows a gathering of the tares first, the rapture of believers next, and the dealing with the rest of the wicked later so that the order will come out correct.
- This statement does not support Jesus' own interpretation that the tares represents THE wicked. It is all of the wicked.

Matthew 13:30 Stance

Post Tribulation Position	Pre-tribulation/Pre-Wrath Position
the tares represent only a <i>portion</i> of the wicked. This supposedly allows a gathering of the tares first, the rapture of believers next, and the dealing with the rest of the wicked later so that the order will come out correct.	Jesus' own words and interpretation is that the tares represents THE wicked. It is all of the wicked.
The tares sown especially among the wheat signify unbelievers especially in Christian circles	The location of the tares does not prove anything, because the <i>wheat is in the world</i> , and so the tares likewise are <i>in the world</i> .
Not all the wicked are included because of the companion parable of the fishnet. The net gathers all kinds of fish <i>out of</i> the sea, not <i>all</i> the fish in the sea.	This objection would stand <i>if</i> it could be shown that the sea is the world and the net is the church. However, using Christ's interpretation as our only guide, we see that <i>the net in one parable corresponds to the field of the other parable</i> , because each denotes the sphere of separation between the good and the bad. Jesus makes no mention of separation in the sea since it is merely an addition to the story which points to the main object, the net. By correspondence, then, if the field is the world, then the net is the world, and the sphere of separation is still the world, not the church.
"It's only a parable. You can't prove doctrine from parables, because you can make a parable say anything you want to."	It is Jesus' interpretation of the parables that these doctrines are based upon, not the parables themselves.
The rapture could not be <i>before</i> the tribulation because that would place the gathering of the righteous <i>first</i> .	Jesus placed the order of separation in "the time of harvest" (Mat 13:30), and Revelation 14:15 places the time of harvest at the end of the tribulation. <i>The order of gatherings at the end of the tribulation is what counts.</i> A rapture years before the time of harvest, does not enter into the order of gatherings at all.

Darrell's Parable

- Darrell's Parable
 - Suppose I told you to buy eggs on Monday. Then on Friday told you to buy meat and eggs in that order — meat first, eggs second.
 - Would you conclude that you were not supposed to buy eggs on Monday because the order would be wrong? Of course not!
 - The order on Friday has nothing to do whatsoever with the purchase on Monday.
 - Likewise, the order of gathering at the end of the tribulation has nothing to do with the rapture at the beginning of the tribulation.
- A pre-tribulation rapture does not interfere in any way with the order of gatherings *in the time of harvest*.
- The rapture does not keep saints and sinners from growing together until the end of the age.
- The rapture does not interfere with the main point of the parable, that the wicked are not to be rooted out until the end.
- The rapture does not interfere with a gathering of the righteous *after* the wicked.

Who Are The Gathered Elect?

- Read [Mark 13:27](#) and [Matthew 24:31](#)
- Jesus gathers the elect
 - And [He shall] gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth ([Isaiah 11:12b](#)). (The gathering of verse 12 comes after the slaying of the wicked in verse 4.)
 - And ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem ([Isaiah 27:12b-13](#)).
- What, then, is the gathering? It is a gathering of *Israel to Jerusalem*, not a gathering of the church in the air. (Israel is called the "elect" in [Isaiah 45:4](#) and [65:9](#).)
- Furthermore, it is a gathering "one by one," not a gathering en masse.

Who?	Gathering of Israel [elect]	Rapture of the Church
Where?	to Jerusalem	in the clouds
How?	one by one	en masse
When?	after the return of Christ	at the return of Christ

How Soon After Christ's Return Does The Gathering Of Israel Take Place

- Christ returns on the 1,260th day.
- Scripture is not very specific on the following 75 days, BUT indications are:
 - The first 30 days allows time for the rooting out of the tares
 - The next 45 days allows time for the one-by-one gathering of the elect from the four corners of the earth.
- Thus this 75-day “time of harvest” allows 30 days for the destruction of the wicked and 45 days for the gathering of the righteous, and it is all according to the proper order of [Matthew 13](#).
- The gathering occurs after the “serpent” is dealt with ([Isaiah 27:1](#)). So even the Old Testament puts the gathering after Christ sets His foot upon the earth.