

The Effectual Working of God's Word (Israel) – Part 2

A 3-Lesson Study by Keith Blades | Enjoy the Bible Ministries®
Study Overview & Lesson Summaries

About This Series

This series complements the main Dispensation of Grace study by examining doctrines God gave specifically to the remnant of Israel for their climactic stage. Part 2 focuses on two essential bodies of doctrine: first, the Sermon on the Mount as corrective foundational teaching that equipped Israel's remnant to disassociate from false religion and understand true righteousness; and second, the Seven Parables of Matthew 13 as wisdom teaching that equipped remnant members to navigate Satan's evolving tactics throughout the tribulation period. Together, these three lessons demonstrate how God's Word effectually works within those who believe — not only in this Dispensation of Grace, but also within God's time-past program with His nation Israel.



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Lessons at a Glance

Lesson	Core Focus
Lesson 1	The Sermon on the Mount as corrective doctrine exposing religious hypocrisy and establishing true righteousness for Israel's remnant
Lesson 2	The first two parables of Matthew 13 — the Sower and the Wheat & Tares — revealing mysteries of the kingdom throughout the climactic stage
Lesson 3	Parables 3–7 of Matthew 13 — from the Mustard Seed to the Net — providing wisdom for the final half of the tribulation and ultimate separation

Lesson Summaries

L1

The Sermon on the Mount *Corrective Doctrine for Israel's Remnant*

- The Sermon on the Mount is essential corrective doctrine written TO the remnant of Israel during the climactic stage of God's program — not the code of conduct for the Body of Christ today.
 - Its purpose is to expose and correct the corruption of Israel's religious system and enable remnant members to disassociate from vain religion

- Exposure of religious hypocrisy: Pharisees, scribes, and chief priests operated under pseudo-human righteousness, teaching “commandments of men” while casting away God’s word (Matthew 15:1–14; Matthew 23).
- Remnant members must exceed Pharisaic righteousness to function as true Israelites (Matthew 5:20) — the Sermon exposes six specific areas where false interpretation had corrupted the law.

Structural Framework

- Psalm 15 provides the outline and framework for the entire Sermon on the Mount; Psalm 24 operates as a parallel passage — showing the unified purpose of correcting Israel’s understanding of righteousness.
- The Sermon on the Mount is foundational corrective doctrine; apostolic doctrine (Matthew 15:15) later builds upon it for further remnant edification throughout the climactic stage.

Prophetic & Historical Context

- Proverbs 30:11–14 prophesies the degenerate generation contemporary with Christ’s coming — cursing parents, self-righteous, arrogant, devouring the poor.
- Israel’s entry into the fifth course of punishment (Leviticus 26) through rejection of Christ sets the stage for the remnant’s calling through gospel preaching.
- Pure religion (James 1:27) involves caring for widows and orphans and keeping oneself unspotted from the world — directly contrasted with the vain conversation received from their fathers (1 Peter 1:18–19).

L2

Seven Parables of the Kingdom — Part 1 *Parables 1–2: Mysteries of the Kingdom Revealed*

- The seven parables of Matthew 13 set forth the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven to make the remnant wise about what is happening during the climactic stage — knowledge only those with understanding ears can grasp.

Daniel’s Framework

- Daniel 12 provides the prophetic framework: knowledge increase in the climactic stage (Daniel 12:4, 8–10) concerns God’s time schedule and program — not modern education. The wicked do wickedly; the wise understand.
- Daniel himself could not understand what was told him — these mysteries were sealed until the time of the end when the remnant would need this wisdom.

Parable Duration Pattern

- The seven parables consist of three pairs plus one final parable, each with a distinct duration: Parables 1–2 apply throughout the entire climactic stage; Parables 3–4 begin only at the midpoint; Parables 5–6 apply during the final half; Parable 7 stands alone at the end.

Parable 1 — The Sower

- Mystery: Not all who hear the gospel of the kingdom and believe will remain faithful throughout the climactic stage. Four categories of response — only “good ground” believers endure to the end (“remnant within the remnant”).
 - All justified remnant members retain eternal life by grace through faith; only those who endure obtain the conditional inheritance of rewards

Parable 2 — Wheat and Tares

- Mystery: Satan's policy of evil involves sowing counterfeit infiltrators among true believers throughout the climactic stage (Ananias and Sapphira were the first — Acts 5). The 1 John epistles equip the remnant to discern and defeat counterfeits.
 - Tares remain mixed with wheat until the end; complete separation occurs only at final judgment

Seven Parables of the Kingdom — Part 2 *Parables 3–7: Wisdom for the Final Stage*

- The Abomination of Desolation (Matthew 24:15) is the critical demarcation point — when the man of sin takes away the daily sacrifice and sets up the abomination, Parables 3–7 fully activate in significance.

Parable 3 — The Mustard Seed

- Application begins at the midpoint: the kingdom grows and flourishes among the Gentile nations during the final 3.5 years. Contrary to prophecy's expectation for Israel alone, Revelation 7:9 shows an uncountable Gentile multitude responding to the gospel.

Parable 4 — The Leaven

- A woman hides leaven in three measures of meal until the whole is leavened — representing the spirit of anti-christ's false religious system corrupting the entire nation. The Pharisees develop a package of doctrine that accepts anti-christ instead of Christ (John 5:43).

Parables 5 & 6 — Treasure & Pearl

- Hidden Treasure: God preserves the believing remnant hidden in the land when the anti-christ system takes possession of Israel — Christ sells all He owns (grants power temporarily) to secure their preservation through the Day of the Lord's wrath (Psalm 27).
- Pearl of Great Price: The remnant in Babylon (outside the land) represents members of supreme value to Christ — separated geographically but equally preserved and prized (Zechariah 2:7; Micah 7).

Parable 7 — The Net

- The net misses no one — complete exhaustive evaluation of every person. The righteous enter the kingdom; the wicked are cast away. Nothing escapes notice; divine judgment is thorough and final (Matthew 25 sheep/goats parallel).

Divine Irony in Judgment

- God grants Satan the very power he has longed to possess — but that power becomes his destruction. Satan is corrupted by the wielding of power (Ezekiel 28:18); God takes the wicked in their own craftiness, and the remnant witnesses his undoing.

L3

Key Doctrinal Distinctions

Written TO vs. Written FOR

The Sermon on the Mount, the Seven Parables, and all doctrines in this series are written TO Israel's remnant during their climactic stage — not directly to the Body of Christ in this Dispensation of Grace. Understanding who doctrine is written TO is foundational to correct interpretation. While believers today benefit from these passages as beneficiaries, Romans through Philemon provides the direct doctrine written FOR the Body of Christ.

Israel's Prophetic Program vs. The Body of Christ

The “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” concern Israel's future kingdom and are distinct from “The Mystery” revealed to Paul concerning the Body of Christ (Ephesians 3). The gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 24:14) is also distinct from Paul's gospel of grace. Both programs operate according to God's purpose, but each must be rightly divided and applied to its proper recipients.

Unconditional vs. Conditional Aspects of Inheritance

Justification unto eternal life is unconditional, by grace through faith, for all remnant members — it cannot be earned or lost. However, inheritance of rewards and kingdom reign is conditional on endurance and faithful living. The Parable of the Sower illustrates this clearly: all four types of hearers receive the gospel, but only the “good ground” believer who endures to the end obtains the full inheritance. Members never lose eternal life, but may forfeit rewards through unfaithfulness.

Satan's Tactics Progress Through Stages

Satan's opposition to Israel's remnant evolves in sophistication across the three lessons. In Lesson 1, his tactic is overt hypocrisy and false teaching through the religious establishment — external and relatively obvious. In Lesson 2, he shifts to hidden infiltration through counterfeit teachers sown among genuine believers. By Lesson 3, his tactic becomes system-wide religious corruption through the anti-christ's false religious system, designed to deceive nearly the entire nation. The remnant must adapt their understanding and response as satanic tactics evolve.

Knowledge Increase as God's Providential Grant

Daniel 12 reveals that the wisdom and knowledge increase during the climactic stage is not a human achievement but God's providential grant to the wise. The wicked do wickedly and remain ignorant; the wise understand God's time schedule, prophetic events, and Satan's tactics — because God grants them understanding. This principle governs all three lessons: the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, and their application are each given by God at precisely the moment the remnant needs them.

Key Scripture References

Matthew 5–7	The Sermon on the Mount — foundational corrective doctrine for Israel's remnant
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Matthew 5:20	Exceeding Pharisaic righteousness — the standard set for remnant members
Matthew 13:1–23	Parable of the Sower — four categories of response; remnant within the remnant
Matthew 13:24–43	Parable of the Wheat & Tares — counterfeit infiltration throughout the climactic stage
Matthew 13:31–50	Parables 3–7 — Mustard Seed, Leaven, Treasure, Pearl, and Net
Matthew 24:15	Abomination of Desolation — critical demarcation point activating Parables 3–7
Daniel 12:4, 8–10	Knowledge increase prophecy; wise vs. wicked distinction; Daniel's sealed understanding
Psalms 15	Structural outline paralleling the Sermon on the Mount; description of righteous living
Leviticus 26	Five courses of punishment framework — context for Israel's climactic stage entry
Proverbs 30:11–14	Prophecy of the degenerate generation contemporary with Christ's first coming
Revelation 7:9	Uncountable Gentile multitude — massive response to the gospel in the final 3.5 years
Ezekiel 28:18	Satan corrupted through his own brightness — power granted becomes his destruction
Zechariah 2:7	"Deliver thyself, O Zion" — remnant call for those scattered in Babylon
Psalms 27	"In his tabernacle shall he hide me" — preservation of the remnant hidden in the land
1 Peter 1:18–19	Redemption from the vain conversation received from fathers — remnant application

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