

Hiding the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven in symbolic language A consequence of the war between God and Satan

The conflict between God and Satan

- Ever since God was forced out of His creation after Satan's rebellion and



deception of mankind, God has been working to re-create His kingdom, His family and home in this world.

- But every time God works to reveal the truth, Satan twists it back toward falsehood.
- God chose to use the Bible's **prophecies and fulfillment** as a means of helping us discern the truth.

God both hid & revealed His plan to re-create His Kingdom

- How can God prophesy without revealing His plans to His enemy before He fulfills them?

- God gave the prophets visions of the future, but those visions were full of symbolic language, the meaning of which would only be revealed at the time of the fulfillment.

gave numerous visions, and through the prophets I gave parables. (Hos 12:10)

**visions
of future
events**

Prophecies

God

- *I have also spoken to the prophets, and I*

Figurative

Prophets

As for me, I heard but could not

**understand; so I said, “My lord,
what will be the outcome of these
events?”**

**He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for
these words are concealed and
sealed up until the end time.**

Dn 12:8-9

**Listen, O my people, to my
instruction; incline your ears
to the words of my mouth. I
will open my mouth in a
parable; I will utter dark
sayings of old ...**

Ps 78:1-2

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

Mt 13:34-35

Only with the fulfillment is the truth revealed

- Once God fulfills His prophecies, the enemy can no longer interfere with the fulfillment itself.
- At that time, God reveals the true meaning of the prophecies to a messenger who was a part of and

witnessed the fulfillment and
then commands him to testify
what he has seen and heard,
revealing it to others.

fulfillment

God

**Promised
messenger**

**Testimony
regarding**

**Now I have told you
before it happens, so that**

**when it happens, you
may believe.**

Jn 14:29

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

Mt 13:10-12

The secrets of the Kingdom of

Heaven • Ever since God lost His kingdom on Earth and had to leave, He has been working (and

prophesying) about re-creating it, but the future reality of those prophecies was hidden in “parables” or symbolic language.

- When Jesus spoke of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven in Mt 13:10-12, he was talking about the fulfillment of the OT prophecies.
- How many knew Jesus was the stone

God promised to lay in Zion (Is 28:16, 1 Pt 2:4-6)? It was a secret of the KoH.

*Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, **I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.** (Is 28:16)*

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

Mt 13:10-12

Like newborn babies,

**long for the pure milk of
the word, so that by it
you may grow in respect
to salvation.**

1 Pt 2:2

What do we mean by figurative/symbolic

language?

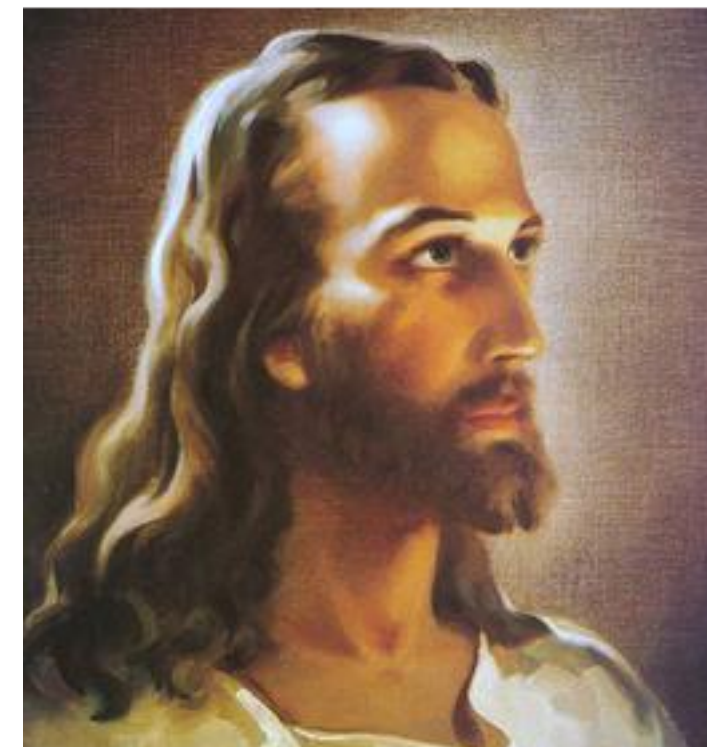
- The symbolism of the prophecies points to a future reality using objects, people, animals, historical events, kingdoms, locations, et cetera.
- The future reality shares characteristics with the symbol being used to point to it.
“Toothpick”

Prophetic symbol

Passover Lamb

True reality

Jesus Christ



The secrets of the Kingdom in two installments

hidden in NT prophecies
revealed

• **1st coming:** secrets of
KoH (Mt 13:10-12)

Prophetic symbol True reality

Man sowing seed Mustard seed

hidden in OT prophecies
revealed

Kingdom of

Yeast

Heaven

• **2nd coming:** secrets
of KoH (Mt 13:24-50)

Hidden treasure

at the

Merchant finds a pearl
fulfillment

Net in the sea

Summary and conclusion

• To help His people distinguish Him and His work from that of His enemy, God spoke of what He would do in the future in fulfillment of those prophecies in symbolic language.

• But to prevent the devil from interfering, God also hid the reality of the

God

• Then, at the appointed time of the fulfillment,

**God
Figurative
visions
of future**

**Testimony regarding
fulfillment**

God could reveal the reality of the symbolic prophecies through His promised messenger

Asaph **New Asaph** = **Jesus**

Promised

because Satan could no longer
interfere. • Like the disciples,
we too must cultivate a heart to
humble ourselves in seeking the
so that we can believe when it happens.

truth
Prophets

**messenger/
witness**

**Prophecies hidden in symbolic
language**

**Fulfillment revealed in plain
language**

Let's pray

