

# **Growing the Kingdom of Heaven within**

**The figurative seed, field, tree, and bird  
The secrets of the Kingdom of**

**Heaven** • Ever since God lost His kingdom on

Earth and had to leave this  
world, He has been working

toward its re-creation. • To  
prevent Satan from interfering,

God hid the future reality of that kingdom in the symbolic language of His prophecies. •

The “secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven” refer to the true meaning of the

**Prophetic symbol True reality**

Man sowing seed Mustard seed

fulfillment of God’s prophecies.

**Borrowing from the physical to explain the**

Kingdom of

Yeast

Heaven

Hidden treasure

at the

Merchant finds a pearl

fulfillment

Net in the sea

# **spiritual** • The symbolism of the Bible's

prophecies borrows characteristics from physical objects, people, animals, historical events, kingdoms, locations, etc. to point to a future spiritual reality (Rom 1:20).

- Remember the stone in Zion that pointed to Jesus?

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom 1:20)*

**Jesus presented another parable to them,**

saying, “The **kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field**; 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 air come and nest in its branches.**”

**Mt 13:31-32**

**And Jesus said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word.**

**Mk 4:13-14**

# Why did God use a seed to symbolize His

**Word?** • Just as physical life (both plant and animal)

begins with physical seed, spiritual life begins with spiritual seed. In other words, the life of our spirit begins with God's Word.

• *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being*

*through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (Jn 1:1-4)*

**Prophetic symbol True reality**

The Seed  
Word



of Life

# Why did God use a seed to symbolize His

**Word?** • Seeds grow and the type of seed

determines what grows. Plant *not of seed which is*

a black bean → more black

beans. You resemble your

father... also true for the

Word.

*perishable but imperishable,  
that is, through the living and  
enduring word of God. (1 Pt  
1:23)*

• *You have been born again*

**Prophetic  
symbol**

True reality

of Life

The Seed

Word

**Why did God use a field to symbolize our**

**hearts?** • God sows the seed of His word in

our hearts of lifeless “dust”  
(Gn 2:7) to create spiritual

small or large, representing  
one heart or many hearts.

life within. • Like a physical  
field, a spiritual field can be

• *For we are God’s fellow  
workers; you are God’s field,*

*God's building. (1 Cor 3:9)*

**Prophetic symbol**

**True reality**

A heart or  
hearts

The Field

I am the **true vine**, and My

Father is the

**vinedresser**. ... I am the **vine**,

you are the

**branches**; he who abides in Me and I in

him, he bears much **fruit**, for



**apart from Me you can do nothing. (Jn  
15:1, 5)**



# God the Gardener and His Tree of

**Life** • Just as a gardener sows the seed in

hope of a harvest, God sows the seed of His Word in our hearts in hope that we will become fruitful.

• Individually we bear the fruits of the spirit in our words and actions (Gal 5:22-23, Prv 13:2), but we can also think of

the Kingdom of Heaven as **God's family tree—the Tree of Life!**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

*(Gal 5:22-23)*

# God the Gardener and His Tree of Life

- As the true vine and source of life, Jesus revealed himself as the tree of life (Jn 15:1, Jn 14:6) and said his 12 disciples were its branches (Jn 15:5).  
smaller branches and leaves for healing the nations (Rv 22:2).  
*In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.*  
(Jas 1:18)
- Every new believer to whom they evangelized became a new fruit on that tree (Jas 1:18). Then, as believers mature, they are supposed to become both

**The birds make their home in God's tree**

- Finally, when the tree is fully grown, the birds of the air come and make their home in it. These birds are the spirits of heaven descending to unite with the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.



- This happened first for Jesus (Mt 3:16), but later the 12 grew to 70 (Lk 10:1) and 120 (Acts 1:15) and then the Holy Spirit made its home in them too (Acts 2).



- What about the Tree of Life in the last days?

**And I saw the holy city, new**

**Jerusalem**, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the **tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them**, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and **He**

**will wipe**

**away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

## Rv 21:2-4

**Two spirits → two seeds → two**

**trees** • Ever since one of God's

angels became "Satan," there have been 2 kinds of spirits sowing 2 kinds of seeds (truth and lies) to produce 2 kinds of trees (Gn 2:9): the **tree of life** and the **tree of the**

**knowledge of good and evil.**

**Life Death**

**My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. He dug it all around, removed its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine ... Then He expected it to produce good grapes, but it produced only worthless ones ... For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel and the men of Judah His delightful plant. Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.**

## **Is 5:1-7**

**“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. (Jer 31:27)**

**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 went away. (Mt 13:24-25)**

**Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.**

**Acts 17:11**

Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; 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 air come and nest in its branches.”

**Mt 13:31-32**

# Summary and conclusion

- God sows the **seed** of His Word in the **field** of our hearts in hopes of growing His living spirit within us.
- God's hope is that our inner person born of His Word will grow into His **tree**—the Kingdom of Heaven—and bear His **fruit** (words, actions, and new believers).
- Ultimately, God's goal is for the **bird** of His spirit to make its home within our tree, but there is a problem ...
- Satan has been interfering with God's work by sowing the seed of his lies in our hearts. This keeps us from becoming God's tree and home and instead makes us Satan's tree and home—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Let's pray   