

# **The figurative sea, fish, fisherman, and net**

**Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; 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. So it will be at the end of the age;**

**the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**Mt 13:47-50**

**The  
parable of  
the net**



- Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a net used by fishermen to gather both good and bad fish from the sea.

- What are the figurative meanings of the sea, fish, fishermen, and net?

**Daniel said, “I was looking in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of**

heaven were stirring up the **great sea**.  
And four great beasts were **coming up  
from the sea**, different from one  
another. ... These great beasts, which  
are four in number, are four kings who  
will **arise from the earth.**”

**Dn 7:2-3, 17**

## **The figurative sea**

- The physical sea is a massive place full of water mixed with so

much salt that we cannot drink it and live.

- In the same way, the figurative sea represents the world of mixed teachings—truth mixed with lies—so that they cannot support the life of a living spirit.

## **The ruler of the sea**

- Satan, the dragon of the sea, has long ruled the world (1 Jn 5:19). • *In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword, even Leviathan the twisted serpent; and He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea. (Is 27:1)*

## **Understanding the depths of the**

# sea

- Some parts of the sea are deeper, darker, and saltier than others. Similarly, the dragon's world includes atheists, idolators, and even corrupt believers.



# The ruler of the sea

**defeated**

- Satan is finally defeated in the book of Revelation!
- *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Rv 12:9)*

## The figurative fish, fishermen, & net

- In the same way fishermen use the net to gather fish from the sea, servants of God use His revealed word to gather people into God's kingdom.

- *Why have You made men like the fish of the sea, like creeping things without a ruler over them? The Chaldeans bring all of them up with a hook, drag them away with their net, and gather them together in their fishing net. Therefore they rejoice and are glad. Therefore they offer a sacrifice to their net and burn incense to their fishing net; because through these things their catch is large, and their food is plentiful. (Hab 1:14-16)*



1st coming - Synagogues 2nd coming -



Churches

**For it is time for judgment to begin  
with the household of God; and if it  
begins with us first, what will be the  
outcome  
for those who do not obey the**

**gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 1 Pt 4:17-18**

**What makes a good fish good and a bad fish**

**bad?** • If the fishermen are servants of God, then God is their judge/customer. Which fish do you think God would like to purchase?

- “Good fish” are those who hear the revealed word of the fulfillment (get caught in the net), write it in their hearts, and act

according to it by sharing it with others.



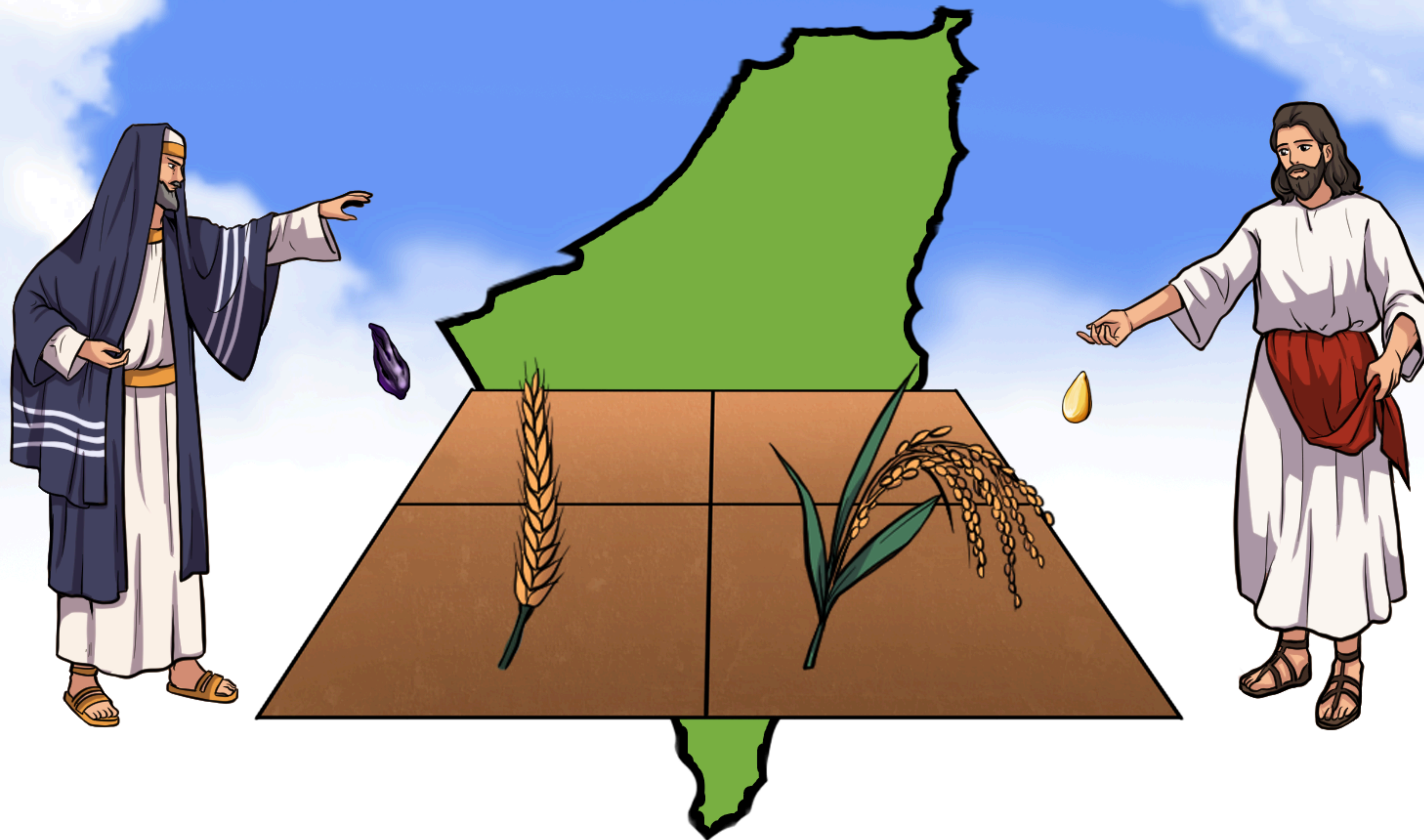
1st coming - Synagogues 2nd coming - Churches



**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. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. 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 tares?’ 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?’ But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’**

**Mt 13:24-30**



**Beginning of the Kingdom of Heaven 2,000 years**

**ago**

**field**

**Man sowing good grain in his field**

**Enemy sowed tares in Jesus's**

**And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 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, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.**

**Mt 13:37-43**



**The completion of the**

# Kingdom of Heaven in the last days

1. Gather good  
grain  
(fish) into  
the barn  
(basket)

2. Burn  
tares (bad  
fish) in the  
field  
(back to sea)



**Kingdom of Heaven**



**Mount Zion**

**in the last days**

**Rv 14:14-16, 1-5**

**Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the**

**house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the**

**outer gate by way of the gate that faces east.**

**And behold, water was trickling from the**

**south side.**

**Ez 47:1-2**

**When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins. Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded. He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me back to the bank of the river.**

## **Ez 47:3-6**

**Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said to me, “These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.**

## **Ez 47:7-9**

**And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.**

## Ez 47:10-12

# Water from the temple heals the sea

- Water flows from the temple through a river into the sea. Life thrives everywhere the river goes and it even makes the seawater fresh.
- At the 1st coming, Jesus was the temple (Jn 2:19-21) and spring (Jn 4:14) that produced the water of the word.
- The word then flowed through the



disciples like a river (Jn 7:38) to heal  
the sea of Judaism (Mt 9:36-37, 10:5-8).

# Life everywhere the river flows

- *Then he showed me a **river of the water of life**, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing*



*twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rv 22:1-2)*

# Measuring out the river of life

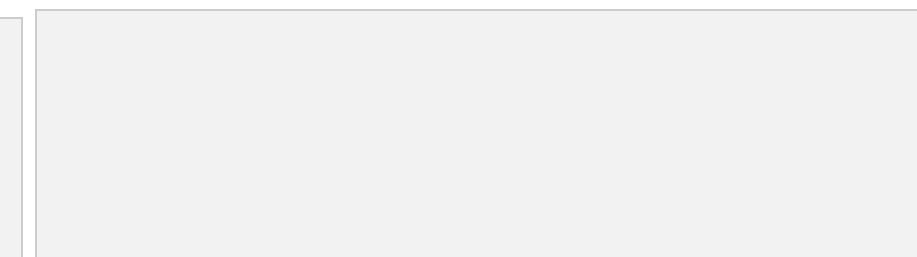
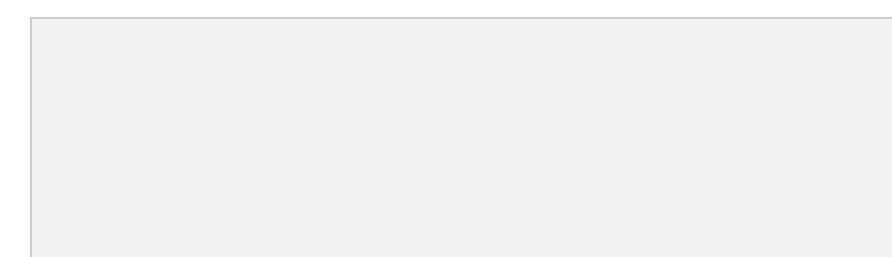
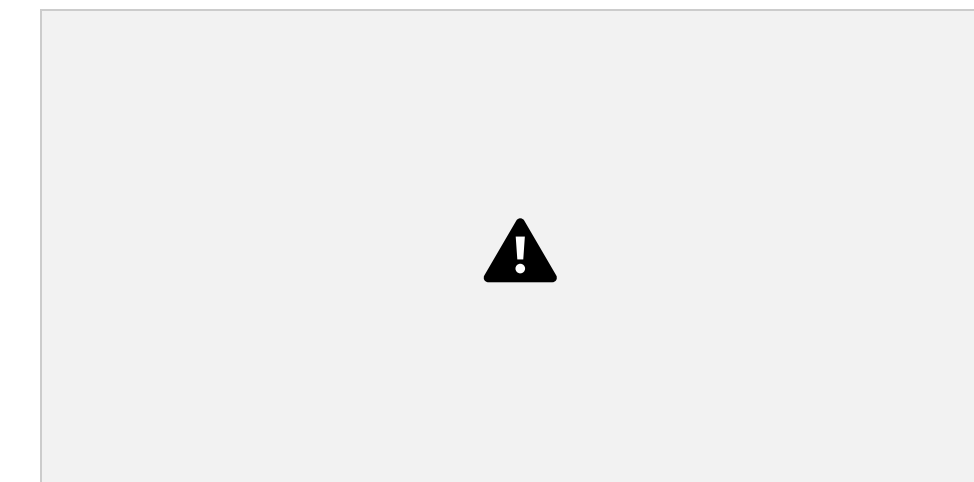
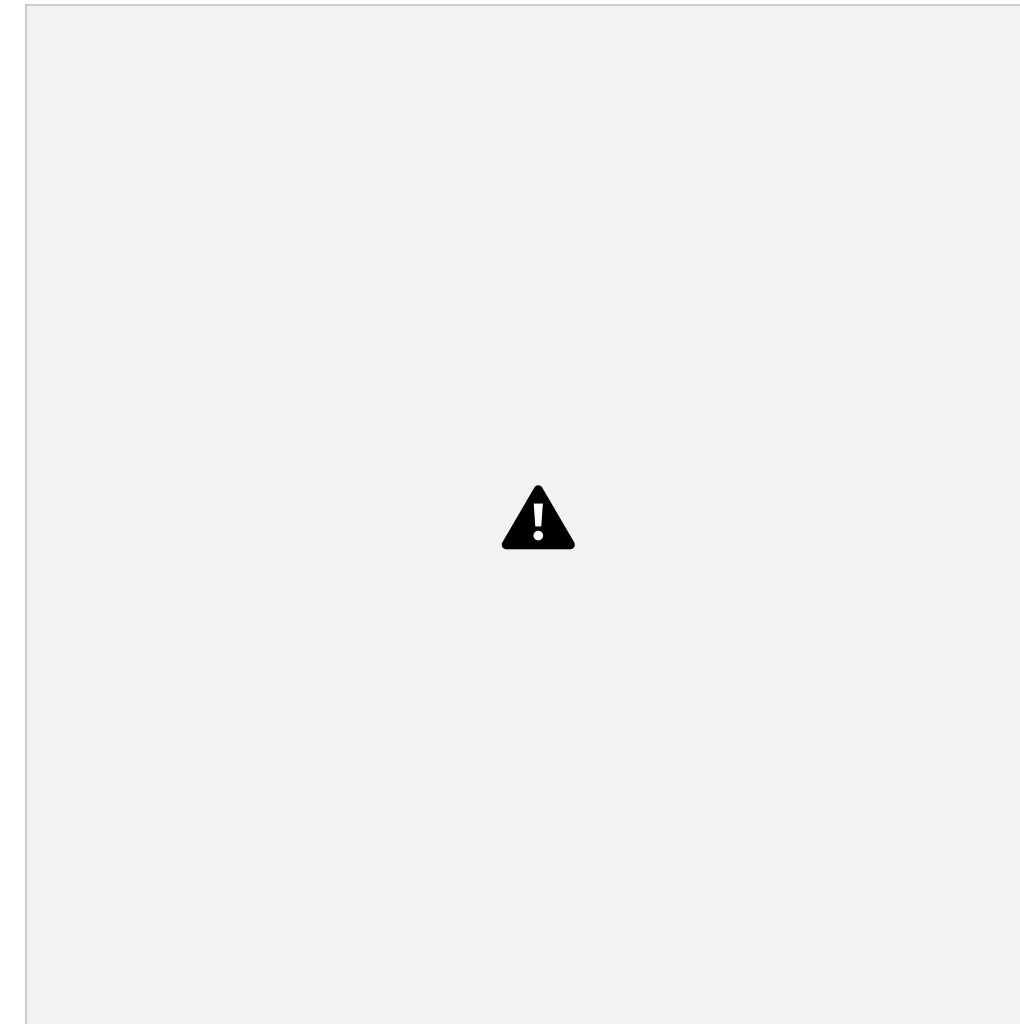
- What does it mean to measure out the river and until it gets so deep you cannot cross?
- We need to keep learning, keep reviewing ... just keep swimming.
- The deeper and faster a river gets, the more futile it is to fight it. The deeper

our understanding of God's word, the more we obey His will instead of fighting for our own.



## Summary and conclusion

- When God sends a fisherman (messenger) to let down a net (open word) into the dragon's sea (world of the churches), we can be judged good fish by humbling ourselves and accepting the truth of the fulfillment.
- In the same way, when the well/spring



pours

out the river of the water of life that flows through the land until it heals the sea, we need to keep measuring out the water until we become a part of that river that does God's work of turning the sea fresh.

Let's pray

