

SURVEY OF MATTHEW 13:1-52

0. SURVEY CHART:

		The Kingdom of Heaven 13:1-52											
Paragraph Titles		Parable of the Sower 13:1-9	Secrets of the Kingdom 13:10-17	Parable of the Sower Explained 13:18-23	Parable of the Weeds in the field 13:24-30	Parable of the Mustard Seed 13:31-32	Parable of the Yeast 13:33	Fulfilling the words of the Prophet 13:34-35	Explaining the Parable of the Weeds 13:36-43	Parable of Treasure in a field 13:44	Parable of the Merchant in search of Pearls 13:45-46	Parable of the net in the sea 13:47-50	Do you understand? 13:51-52
Main Units		I. Jesus Teaches the Crowd in Parables 13:1-9 (Discourse)					II. Jesus Explains the Parables to the Disciples 13:10-52 (Dialogue)						

Main Sub-Units	A. Setting The Stage (3:1-3a)	B. Parable of the Sower (3:3b-9)	A. Jesus Explains to the Disciples (3:10-23)	B. The Kingdom of Heaven is like...	C. Do you understand? (3:51-52)
			1. Why speak in parables? (3:10-17) 2. Explaining the Parable of the sower. (3:18-23)	1. Good seed among the weeds (3:24-30) 2. A mustard seed (3:31-32) 3. Yeast (3:33) 4. Treasure in a field (3:44) 5. A merchant looking for pearls (3:45-46) 6. A net thrown into the sea (3:47-50)	
Other Observations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tone is very secretive, that only those who can decipher the parables will come to know the Kingdom of Heaven 2. The disciples themselves don't understand, it must be explained to them 3. The author seems to be justifying why some will not believe or understand the message 				
Literary Form(s)	Prose Narrative (3:1-3a) Discursive (3:3b-52)				

1. MATERIALS (Specific):

Paragraph Titles
Parable of the Sower 13:1-9
Secrets of the Kingdom 13:10-17
Parable of the Sower Explained 13:18-23
Parable of the Weeds in the field 13:24-30
Parable of the Mustard Seed 13:31-32
Parable of the Yeast 13:33
Fulfilling the words of the Prophet 13:34-35
Explaining the Parable of the Weeds 13:36-43
Parable of Treasure in a field 13:44
Parable of the Merchant in search of Pearls
Parable of the net in the sea 13:47-50
Do you understand? 13:51-52

2. STRUCTURE:

Main Units	I. Jesus Teaches the Crowd in Parables 13:1-9 (Discourse)		II. Jesus Explains the Parables to the Disciples 13:10-52 (Dialogue)		
Main Sub-Units	A. Setting The Stage (3:1-3a)	B. Parable of the Sower (3:3b-9)	A. Jesus Explains to the Disciples (3:10-23)	B. The Kingdom of Heaven is like...	C. Do you understand? (3:51-52)
			1. Why speak in parables? (3:10-17) 2. Explaining the Parable of the sower. (3:18-23)	1. Good seed among the weeds (3:24-30) 2. A mustard seed (3:31-32) 3. Yeast (3:33) 4. Treasure in a field (3:44) 5. A merchant looking for pearls (3:45-46)	

2.2. Structural Relationships:

■ **Climax:** The structural relationship operating between the materials in Matthew 13:1-50 and 13:51-52. There is continual emphasis building throughout the material in 13:1-50 surrounding the nature of the Kingdom of Heaven and those who can, and cannot understand, climaxing in 13:51-52 where the Jesus asks the disciples if they understand what has been shown to them.

Questions:

- 1) Definitional: What is the meaning of climax as used in this context and how, specifically, does the use of climax illumine the Jesus' message?
- 2) Rational: Why has Matthew used climax within this segment and why does Matthew feel the need to create a sense of urgency within this context?
- 3) Implicational: What are the full implications of the use of climax?

■ **Recurrence of Comparison:** The structural relationship involving the material in Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 38, 44, 45, 47, which repeats the use (in some form) of the phrase: "The kingdom of heaven is like..." whereby comparing the kingdom of heaven to something metaphorical.

Questions:

- 1) Definitional: What is the meaning of recurrence of comparison as it is made use of by Matthew in this segment? How does a repetitive exposure to this comparison illumine the nature of the kingdom of heaven for the reader?
- 2) Rational: Why does Matthew choose to repeat this phrase so often within this short context with so many similar examples?
- 3) Implicational: What are the full implications of the use of recurrence of comparison within this segment?

■ **Recurrence of Preparation/Realization with Particularization by Chiasm:** The structural relationship operating between the materials in Matthew 13:1-3a and 13:3b-35, and 13:36a and 13:36b-52 within which there is a recurrence of the introduction/preparation for what is to come (13:1-3a-3b and 13:36a-36b) followed by a movement to a specific description of what heaven is like along with an explanation of what those metaphoric descriptions mean, which follows an ABBA format.

A: Jesus is going to explain the nature of heaven (13:1-3a-3b and 13:36a-36b)

- B: Parables about heaven offered/explained (13:3b-9 and 13:36b-43)
B: More Parables about heaven (13:24-33 and 13:44-50)
A: Jesus has explained the nature of heaven (13:34-36a and 13:51-52)

Questions:

- 1) Definitional: How does the use of this movement from general to the particular, regarding the recurrence of preparation illumine the segment? What does the author intend to communicate about the nature of heaven via this format?
- 2) Rational: Why does Matthew use this compound structural relationship here, in a way that essentially repeats the same thing twice within the text?
- 3) Implicational: What are the full implications of the use of this relationship here?

■ **Recurrence of Contrast:** The structural relationship involving the materials in Matthew 13:10-17 and 13:34-35 within which there is a repetition of an association of opposites, specifically regarding the use of parables to communicate the message combined with the fact that some will understand what is spoken and some will not understand. Essentially, though Jesus is speaking about the kingdom of heaven and explaining it to people, what he is explaining is not meant to be understood by many. According to the text, this contrast is to fulfill the prophecy (13:14-15 and 13:35).

- “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.” (13:11)
- “Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.” (13:34)

Questions:

- 1) Definitional: How does communicating a message that is meant to be difficult to understand illumine the message of the author? What is the purpose of intentionally communicating something that is not meant to be understood by all? How does the association of opposites here make the author’s point?
- 2) Rational: Why does Matthew use this relationship to communicate to the reader the nature of heaven?
- 3) Implicational: What are the full implications of recurrence of contrast within this segment?

■ **Causation and Instrumentation.:** The structural relationship operating between the materials in Matthew 13:1-35 and 13:36-52 where within each passage there is a movement from the means (opening your eyes and ears) to the end (understanding what has been revealed about the kingdom of heaven). Within this segment there is also a movement from cause to effect in that God chooses whose eyes and ears will be open to the message, which allows for the message to be understood.

Questions:

- 1) Definitional: What is the precise meaning of the role that God plays in opening our eyes and ears to understand the message? How is the role of God in this understanding integral to the ability to fully understand the message?
- 2) Rational: Why does Matthew seek to communicate the important role that God plays in illuminating the message about the nature of the kingdom of heaven?
- 3) Implicational: What are the full implications of the use of Causation and instrumentation here?

3. QUESTIONS:

See Above.

4. KEY VERSES AND/OR STRATEGIC AREAS:

- *Matthew 13:51-52*: Represents major structural relationship Climax.
- *Matthew 13:24*: Represents major structural relationship Recurrence of Comparison.
- *Matthew 13:1-3a-3b and 13:36a-36b*: Represent major structural relationship Recurrence of Preparation/Realization with Particularization by Chiasm.
- *Matthew 13:11 and 13:34*: Represents major structural relationship Recurrence of Contrast.
- *Matthew 13:34-35 and 13:51-52*: Represents major structural relationship Causation and Instrumentation.

6. LITERARY FORM(S)

- *Discursive and Logical Literature* (3:3b-52).
- *Prose Narrative* (3:1-3a).

6. OTHER MAJOR IMPRESSIONS:

1. Tone is very secretive, that only those who can decipher the parables will come to know the Kingdom of Heaven
2. The disciples themselves don't understand, it must be explained to them
3. The author seems to be justifying why some will not believe or understand the message

Time: Approx. 10 ½ hrs.