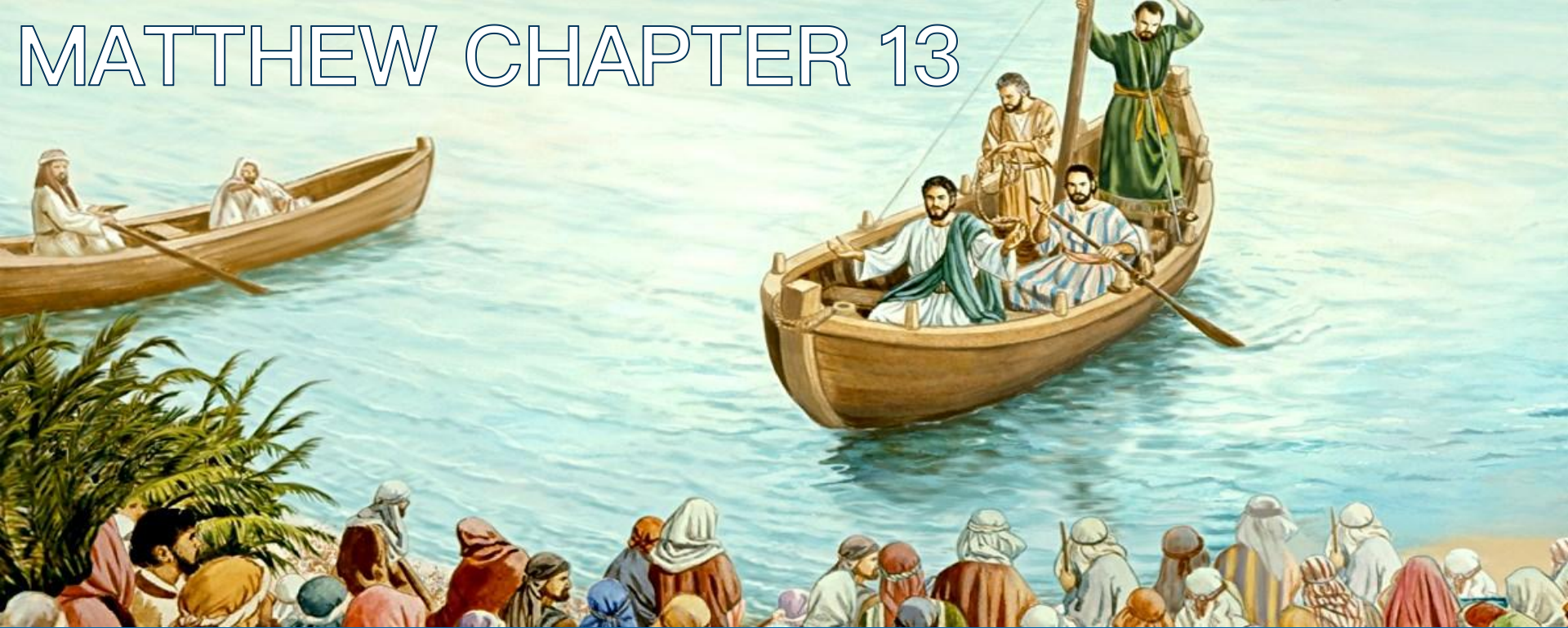


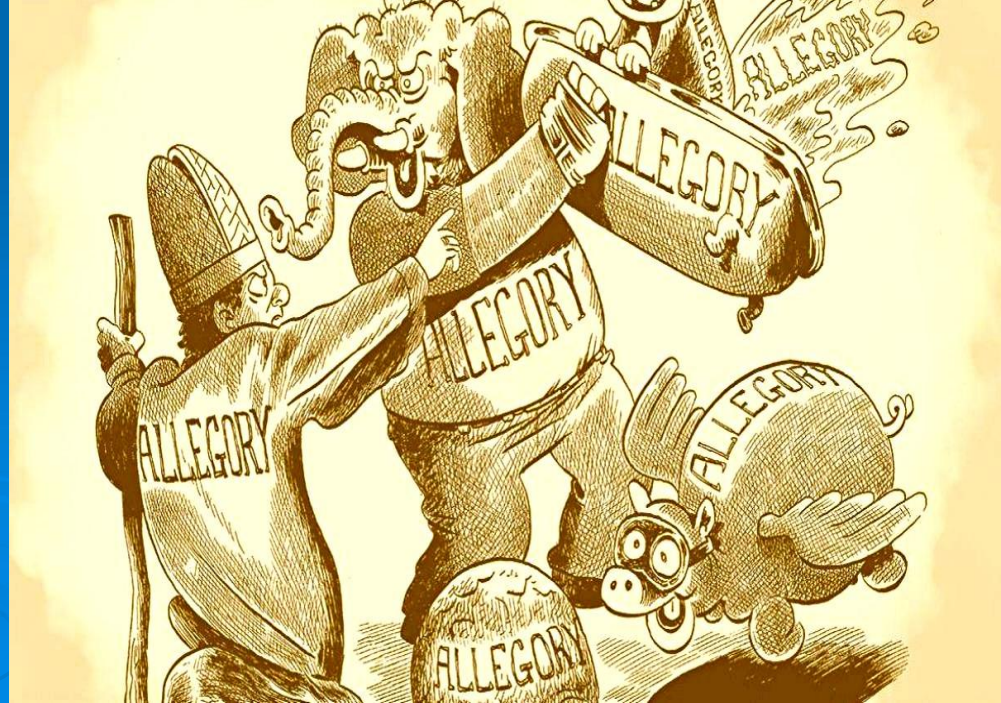
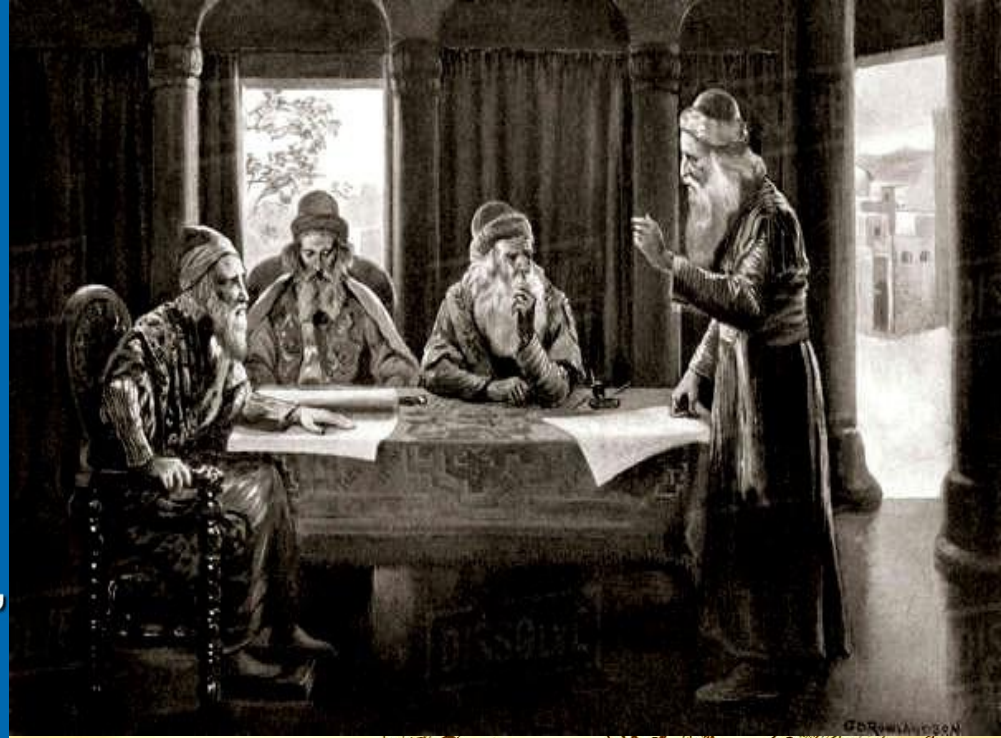
MATTHEW CHAPTER 13



- From here on we'll find Yeshua prominently using parables in His teaching
- What is a parable, and what is not?
- Christ was not the inventor of parables
- Ze'ev Safrai: Parables are "short stories with moral insight and a clear aim"

PARABLES ONLY IN JEWISH CULTURE

- “Rabbinic Judaism” did not yet exist in Yeshua’s day
- “Rabbi” was an honorary title, not an official one (yet)
- Parables: created only within Jewish thought, culture, religion and language (Hebrew)
- Gentile Christian allegorical teaching allows for multiple valid interpretations and solutions (opposite of how a parable works)



HOW TO IDENTIFY A PARABLE



- Parables are not found in the Greco-Roman world
- *Paraboles* = parable
- *Mashal* = at first meant a prophecy, a riddle, or authoritative statement
- All languages evolve over time
- By Christ's day *mashal* meant parable



To what may the matter be compared...?

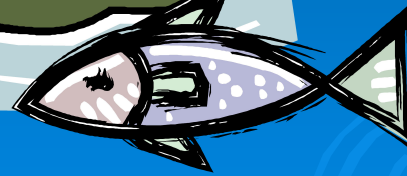
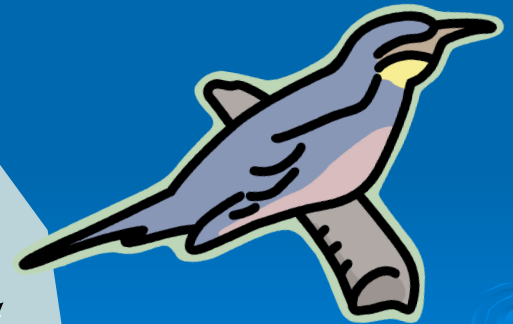


- Parables usually begin with a word formula
- ***Mashal lema hadabar domeh*** = A parable: to what may the matter be compared?
- A parable typically centers around an obvious moral
- Rabbinic parables: A King, sick person, or woman
- Yeshua's parables: A maiden, field worker, agriculture

REALITY OF DUALITY

**HEAVEN AND THE
SPIRITUAL WORLD**

←→
SPIRITUAL REALITY



←→
PHYSICAL REALITY

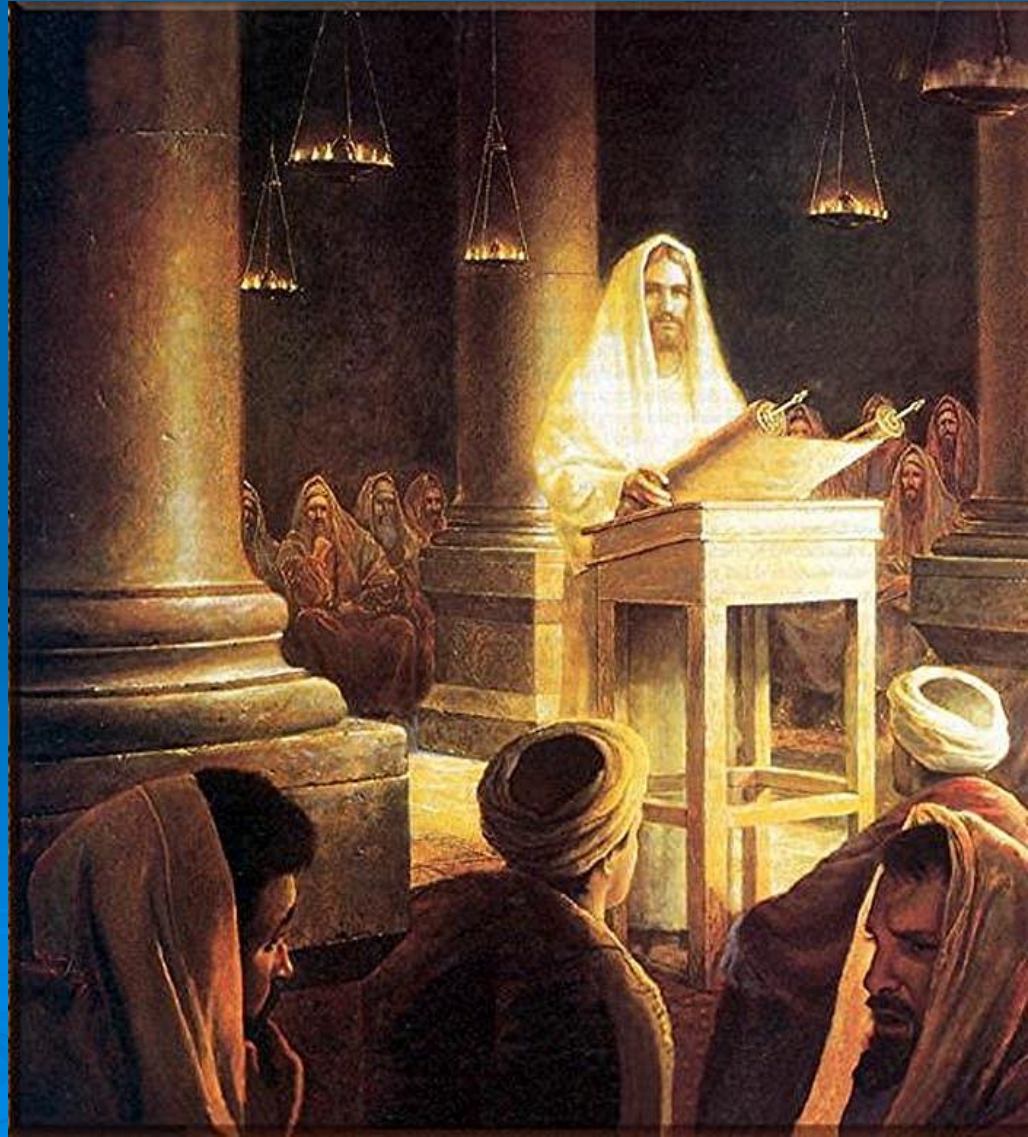


- A shadow is an outline of the object casting it
- A parable is the visible shadow of an invisible divine object or purpose
- A parable contains only ONE message and moral
- Parables not used to explain Jewish Law, or found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, or used to teach the Torah



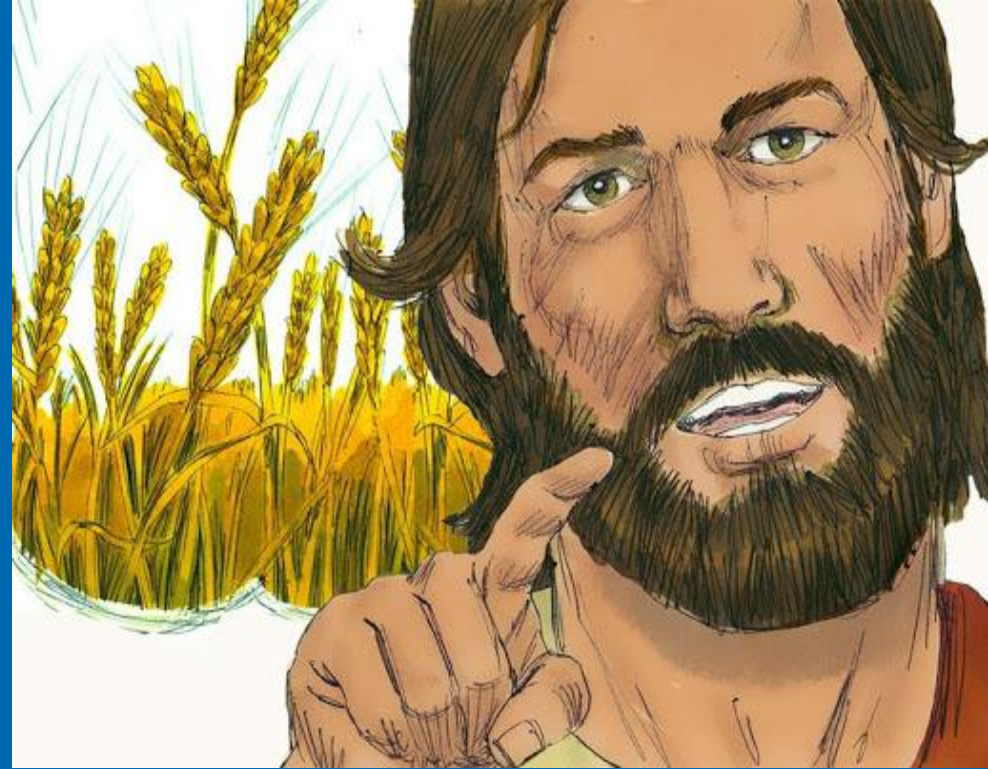
YESHUA: A PRODUCT OF THE SYNAGOGUE CULTURE

- Parables in the Jewish world found only in the writings of the Rabbis, and in the New Testament
- Parables are to help us understand what God is like
- Parables help us to understand God's nature and Kingdom in a more personal/relational way



YESHUA IS DISAPPOINTED

- Chapter 13 still on the Sabbath Day
- Christ back in his town of Capernaum
- To this point, the Good News was that the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived
- Yeshua has had more failures than successes
- He had become at permanent odds with the Synagogue leadership



WE ARE GOD'S MESSENGERS: NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT

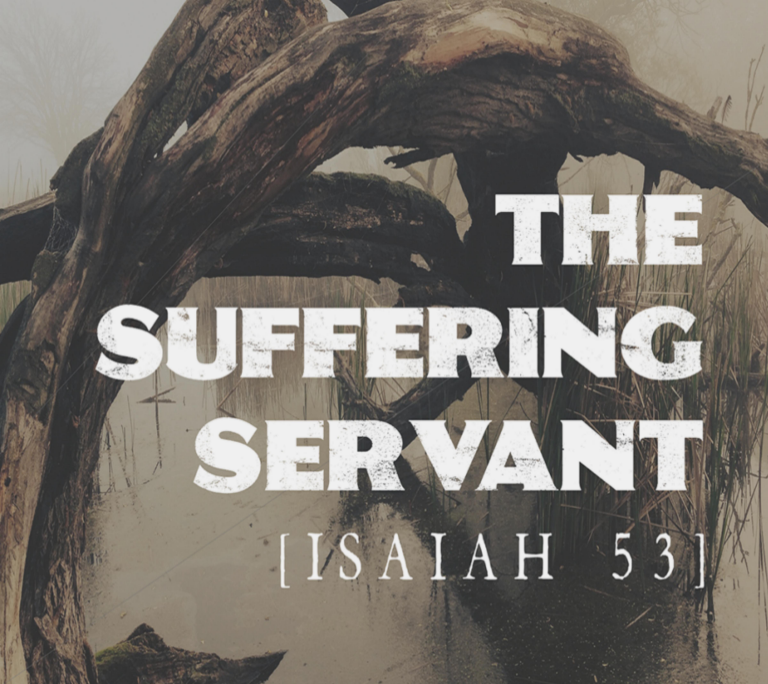


- Jesus did not feel He was succeeding despite the large crowds
- The crowds wanted their circumstances changed, but most didn't repent
- Lesson: Hearing God's message of truth does not guarantee the right response (repentance)
- The job of leaders is to serve God and shepherd His people

Four Soils Parable

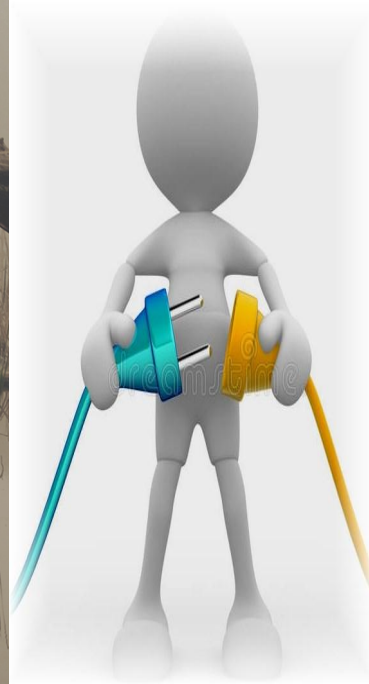


- Christ explains this parable's meaning
- 4 cases of interaction between seed and soil
- The number 4 is based on Hebrew gematria, and it symbolizes that the subject applies universally
- "Those who have ears, let them hear."
- The principle of *shema*: hearing and acting on it



THE SUFFERING SERVANT

[ISAIAH 53]



- There seems to be a connection between the Parable of the Seeds (soils) and Isaiah 53:7 - 10
- **Zera** = seed Can mean the seed you plant in the ground, offspring (children), can be used as a metaphor, also used in spiritual terms in the Bible
- In Isaiah 53 the term “seed” is being used spiritually
- 1) Sower is Yeshua 2) Seed is God’s Word 3) The soil that reacts properly becomes part of the Kingdom of Heaven 4) The Seed of God (His Word) produces the seed of the Suffering Servant