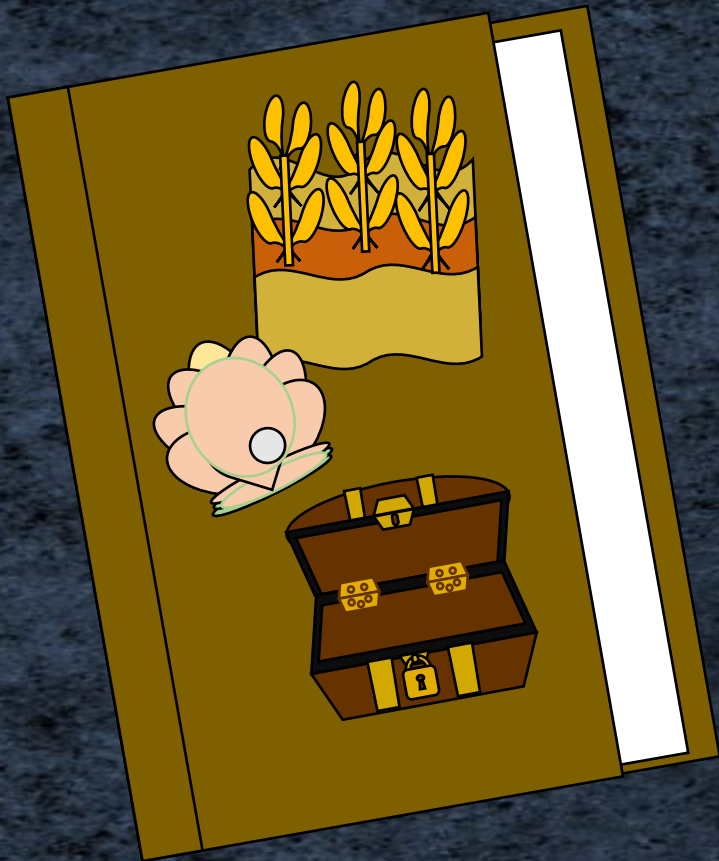


MATTHEW 13 LUKE 8, 13



JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT BY USING PARABLES

MATTHEW 13



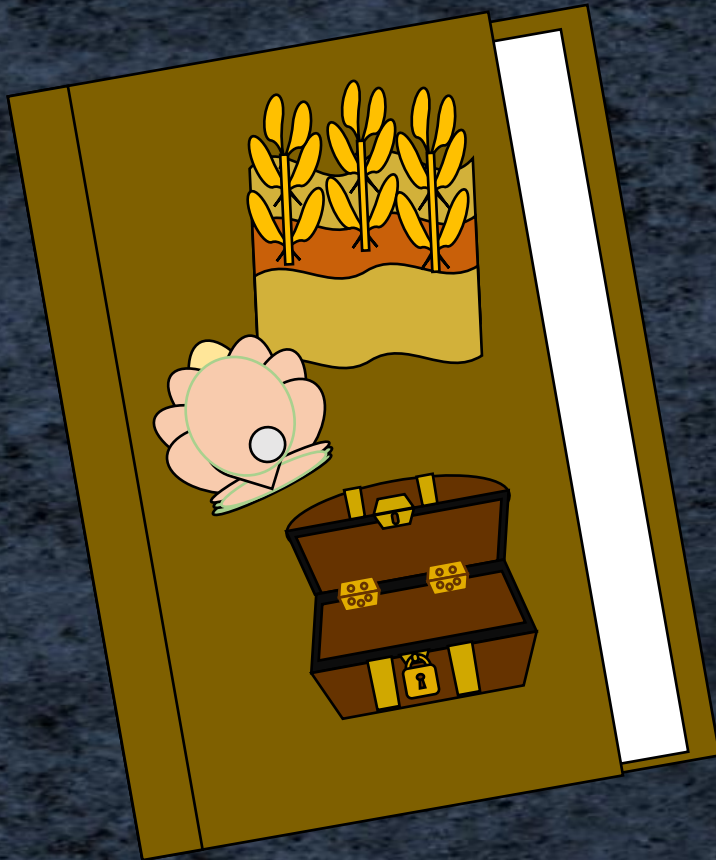
*But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.
Mark 4:34*

PARABLES

The Lord uses Parables to veil the meaning

Greek in origin and means = setting side by side,
a comparison—with material things

The Hebrew—*Mashal* used to translate



A simple story used to illustrate and teach a spiritual truth or principle. A parable is based on comparing an ordinary object or event to a truth”

Thus it is that the parable exhibits the condition of all true knowledge. Only he who seeks finds. (1)

INTERPRETATION OF PARABLES

It is important to distinguish between the interpretation of a parable and the application of a parable.

The only true interpretation is the meaning the parable conveyed, or was meant to convey, when first spoken.

The application of a parable may vary in every age and circumstance. But if the original meaning is to be grasped, it is important to consider its context and setting.

(1)

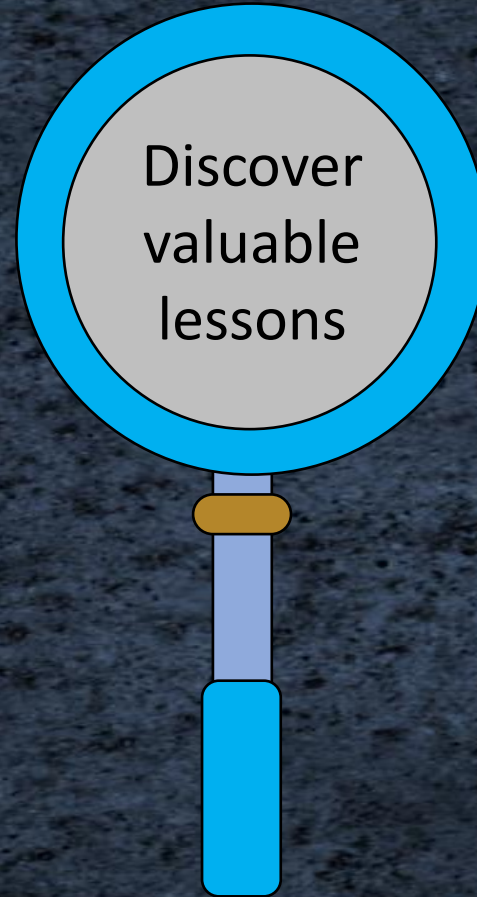
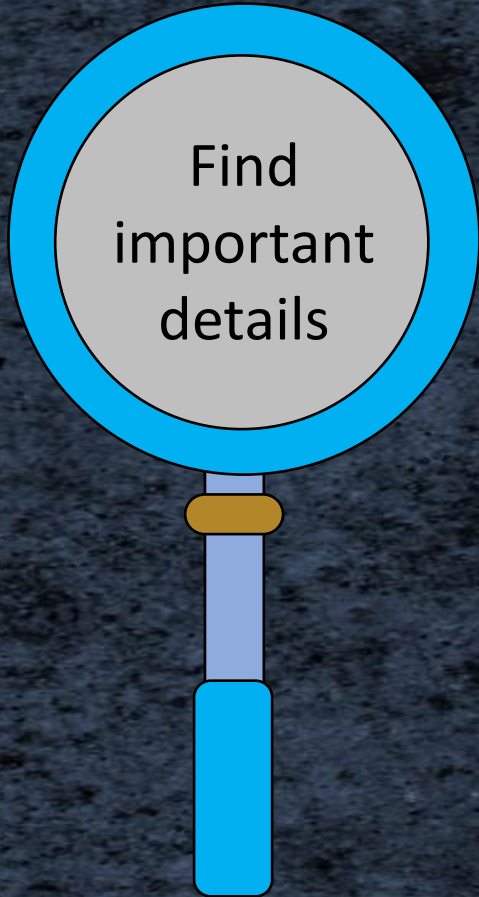


WHY PARABLES?

Parables revealed the mysteries or truths of the kingdom of heaven to those who were ready to receive them, while hiding the meaning from those who were spiritually unprepared.



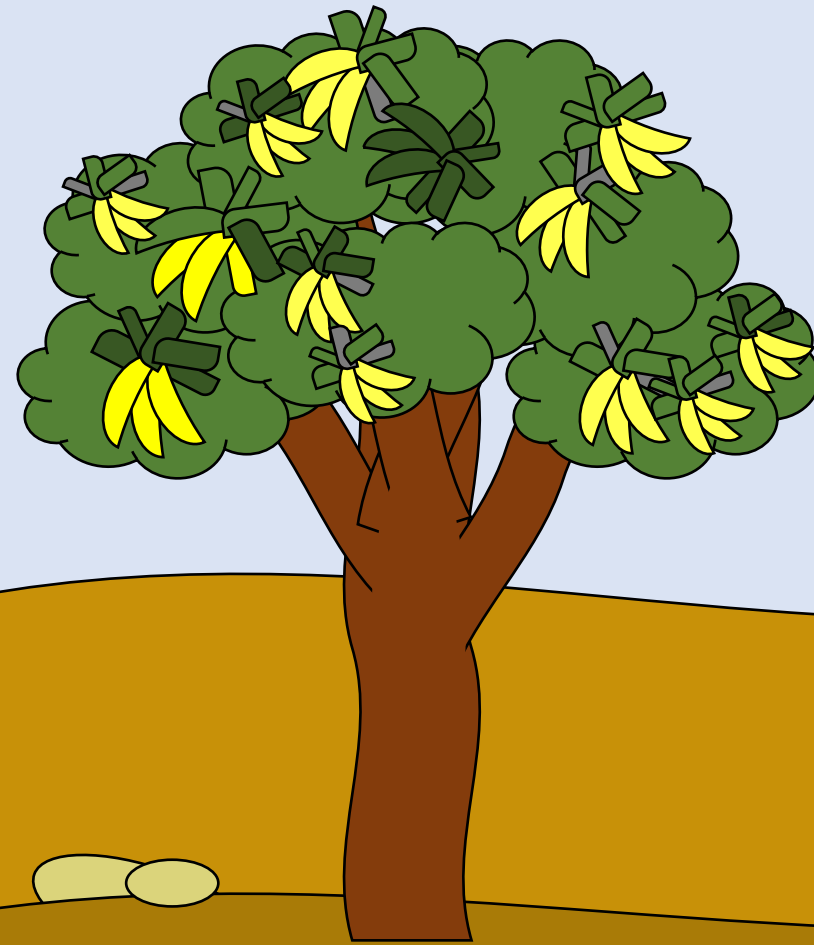
4 STEPS



The Kingdom of Heaven is
like unto...Matthew 13:24



**The Mustard Seed-
The smallest seed
grows into the
largest of herbs**





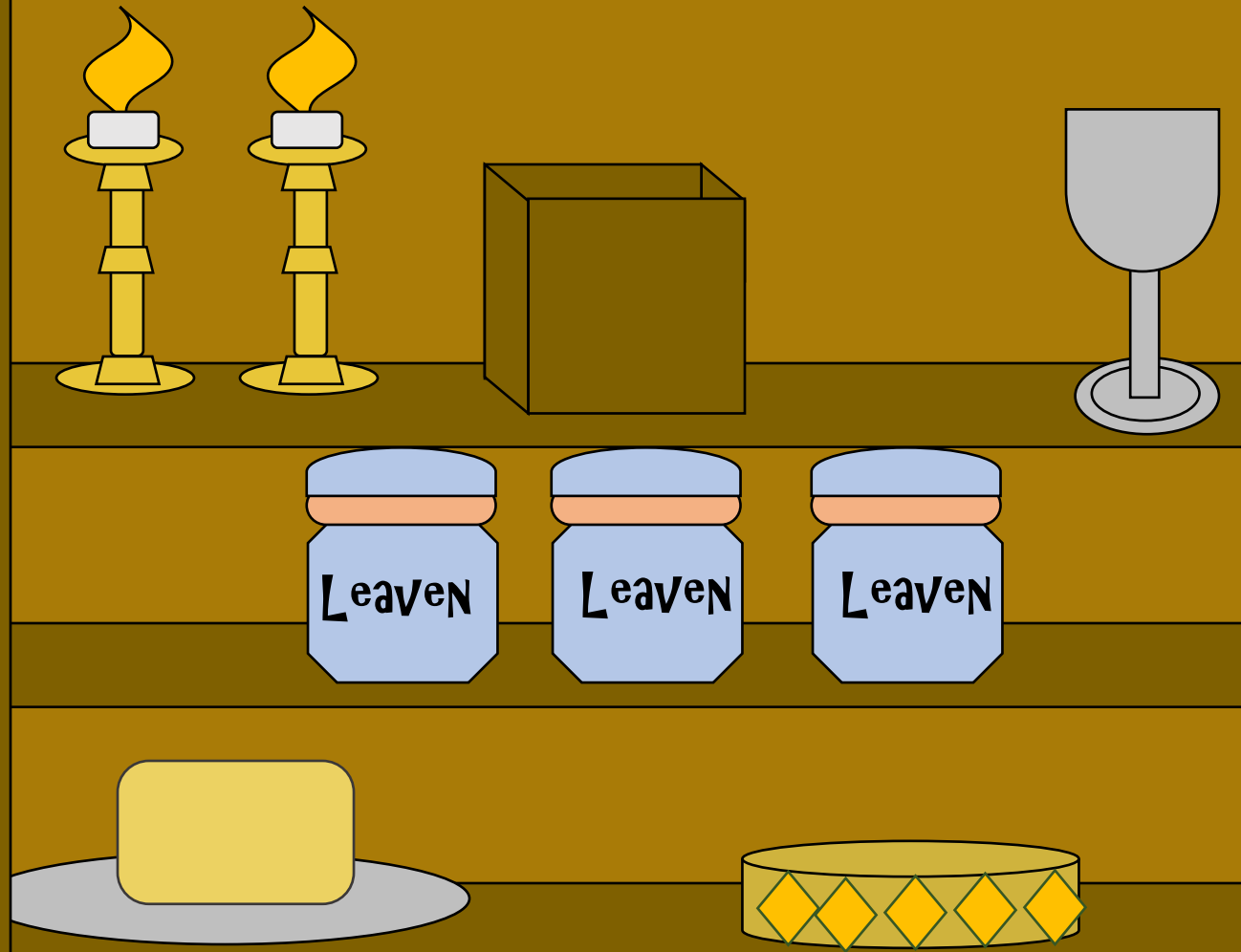
This figure is given to represent the Church as it shall come forth in the last days. ... Let us take the Book of Mormon, which a man took and hid in his field, securing it by his faith, to spring up in the last days, or in due time; let us behold it coming forth out of the ground, which is indeed accounted the least of all seeds, but behold it branching forth, yea, even towering with lofty branches and Godlike majesty, until it, like the mustard seed, becomes the greatest of all herbs.

...

God is sending down His powers, gifts, and angels to lodge in the branches thereof” (3)



The Leaven
a small amount of
yeast in 3 measures
of flour grows until
it leavens all the
dough



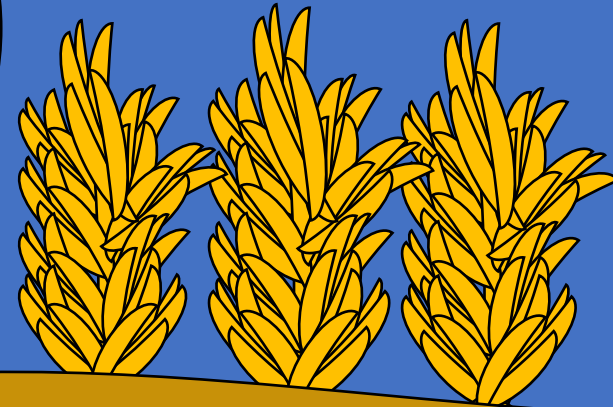
The latter-day Church will spread throughout the earth, aided by the leaven of the testimonies of the Three Witnesses and the latter-day scriptures.



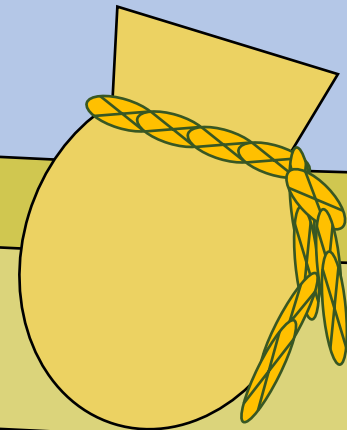
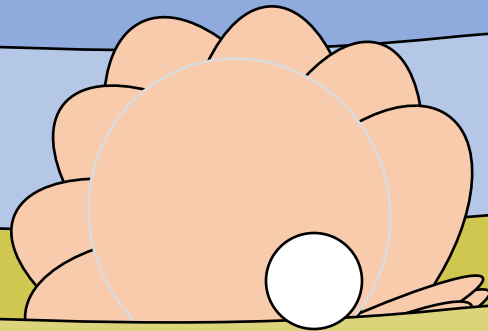
These were, according to the Book of Mormon, the Jews in Palestine [who produced the Bible], the seed of Joseph on the Western hemisphere [who produced the Book of Mormon], and the ten tribes in the North country [whose leavening record is yet to come].

These all were visited by the Savior. They heard His voice and were taught of Him 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism,' that there might be 'one fold and one shepherd.'" (4)

**Hidden
Treasure...a
man sells all he
has to buy a
field with a
hidden treasure**



**Pearl of Great Price-
a merchant sells all he
has to buy the most
valuable pearl.**



“While the treasure in the field was accidentally discovered, the pearl of great price was deliberately sought.

Similarly, some stumble upon the gospel as if by accident; others find it by searching.



Earthly treasure is no match for treasure in heaven.

What am I willing to give for the kingdom of God?



The Fish Net-
fishers catch all
kinds of fish in
their net, and they
separate them
later.

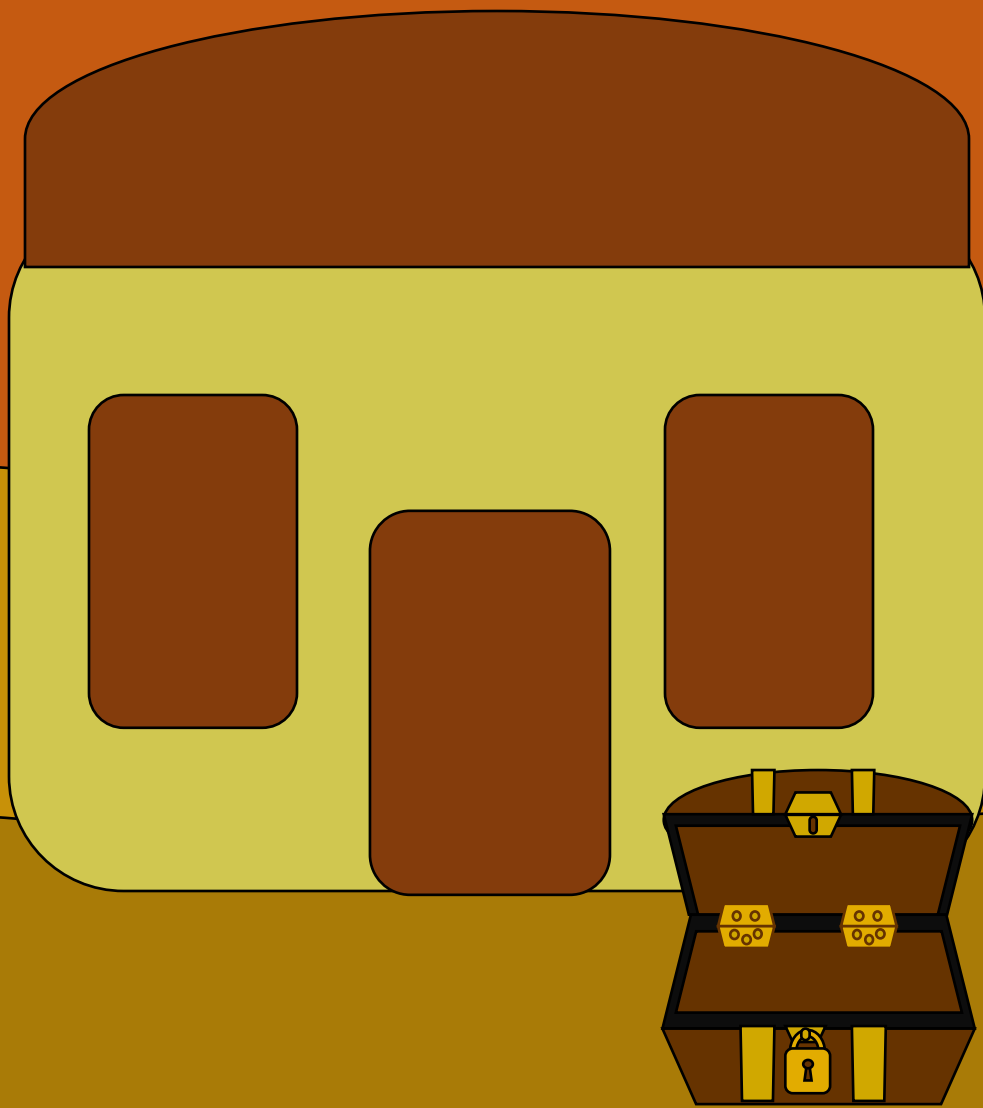
“The net here meant is draw net or a seine, which may be as much as half a mile in length; it is leaded below so it will sweep the bottom of the sea, while corks keep the top floating near the surface. As it is swept along the beach it gathers in fish of every sort without reference to their ultimate use or worth. (5)



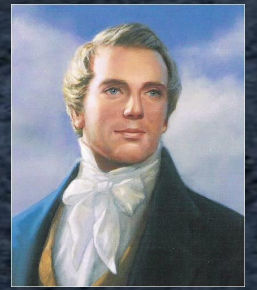
For the work of this pattern, behold the seed of Joseph, spreading forth the Gospel net upon the face of the earth, gathering of every kind, that the good may be saved in vessels prepared for that purpose, and the angels will take care of the bad” (2)



**New and Old
Treasures-
a righteous scribe
brings out both
old and new
treasures**



“For the works of this example, see the Book of Mormon coming forth out of the treasure of the heart. Also the covenants given to the latter-day Saints, also the translation of the bible—thus bringing forth out of the heart things new and old.” (2)



A householder is the head of the household whose duty is to clothe, feed, and govern the inhabitants.

Also one who loves, cares for, and reveals the gospel to his children in all dispensations.
(7)

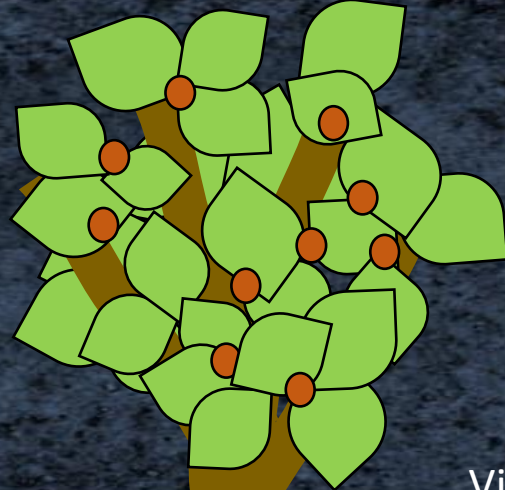


The Parable of the Fig Tree

Certain man = God



Fig Tree =
The Jewish remnant of Israel

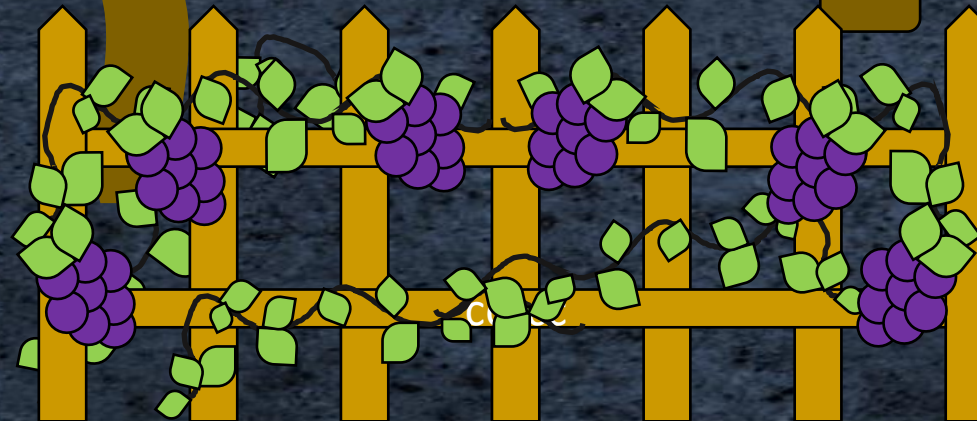


Israel was failing to
produce
righteousness
within its season of
opportunity

Dresser of his
vineyard =
The Son of God.



Vineyard = The world



He granted a final year for the tree to bear fruit, during which time it had to either produce fruit or be removed from the vineyard.

Under A Fig Tree

“Under the fig tree” was a common phrase in Israel that indicated peace, security, and prosperity. (2)

“Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid.” (Micah 4:3-4)



Some rabbinical sources suggest that “under the fig tree” is the proper place for personal scripture study and may be synonymous with the phrase “in search of truth” (3)



Jesus greeted Nathanael with these words: “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile?”
Nathanael said to him, “Whence knowest thou me?”
Jesus answered and said , “Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.” (John 1:47-48)



What To Do With A Barren Tree?



John the Baptist said,

“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance...”

“...And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruits is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”



“Bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to bad people.

It is dangerous to try to connect people’s actions to events in their lives, because they don’t always correlate. Good people often suffer and bad people often prosper.

But there will come a time when the patience of the husbandman is gone, and a judgment is made.”

“Whatever our circumstances, we are commanded to repent and be prepared.”

Parables of Gathering

“I have a key by which I understand the scriptures. I enquire, what was the question which drew out the answer, or caused Jesus to utter the parable? ... To ascertain its meaning, we must dig up the root and ascertain what it was that drew the saying out of Jesus.” (3)



GATHERING



Jesus Christ and His Apostles sowed the seeds of the gospel in their day.



The righteous and wicked grew together in New Testament times, eventually leading to the Great Apostasy. In the latter days, the righteous will be gathered into the Church and the wicked will be destroyed.



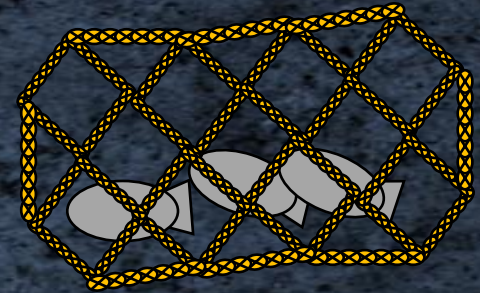
The latter-day Church will spread throughout the earth, aided by the leaven of the testimonies of the Three Witnesses and the latter-day scriptures.



The Church of Jesus Christ will be restored. From small beginnings it will grow, spread, and become a majestic worldwide Church.



The righteous will gather to the kingdom of God. Latter-day Saints will sacrifice and work to build Zion.



All types of people will be gathered into the Church. At the end of the world, the wicked will be cast out and destroyed.

“The sayings of the Savior,
recorded in the 13th chapter of
His Gospel according to St.
Matthew, ... in my mind, afford
us as clear an understanding
upon the important subject of
the gathering as anything
recorded in the Bible” (9)



Each of us should look for the lessons and warnings found in the simple events of everyday life.

As we seek for a mind and heart open to receive heavenly direction by the power of the Holy Ghost, then some of the greatest instructions that we can receive and many of the most powerful warnings that can safeguard us will originate in our own ordinary experiences.

Powerful parables are contained in both the scriptures and in our daily lives.

(8)



The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:3-9, 19-23



Matthew 13:4, 19; Luke 8:5-8

“A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way side...some fell upon a rock...some fell among thorns...and other fell on good ground...”



The Sower
represents one
who preaches
the gospel



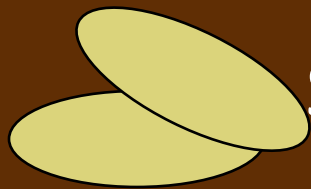
The Field represents the
world



The Fowl
represents
Satan

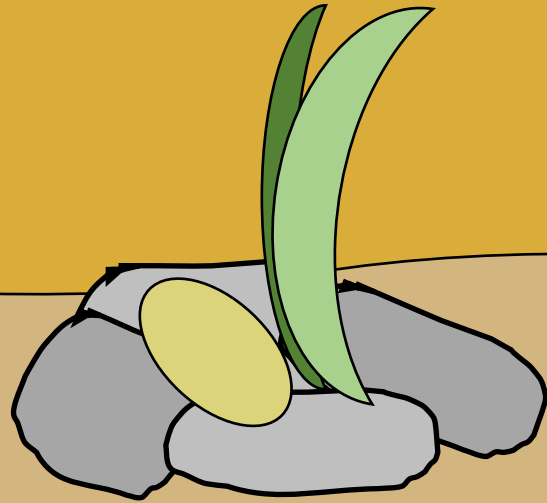


The soil represents your Testimony



Seeds represent the Word of God

The Stones
represent the
strength
needed to
survive

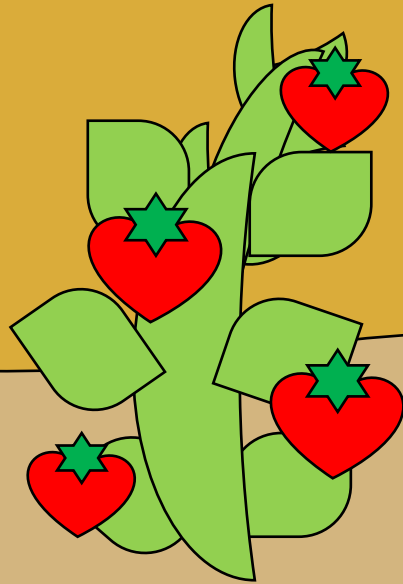




The Thorns
represent Satan's
temptations and
the cares of the
world



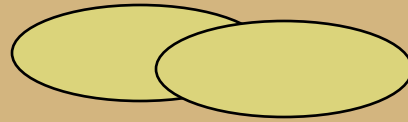
The Fruit
represent our
knowledge of the
gospel





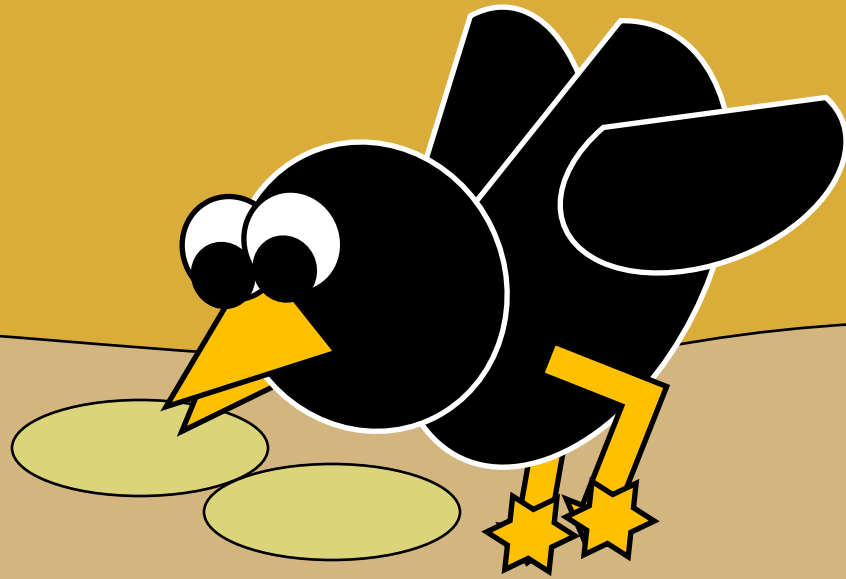
The path is trodden and hard, the seed can not grow and is devoured by the fowl

Satan has a hold on them whose hearts are hardened and don't or won't try to understand



Mosiah 26:3

“And now because of their unbelief they could not understand the word of God and their hearts were hardened”



When we are trying to grow the word of the kingdom in our hearts, Satan will be watching, eager to take it all away.

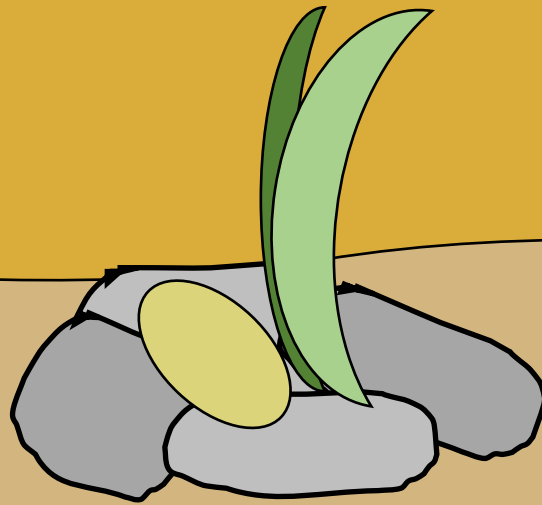
Matthew 13:4, 19; Luke 8:12

“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved

Some roots
take place,
but many
are
destroyed
by weather
because
the roots
are not
deep
enough



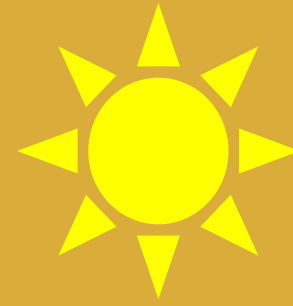
These are
the people
who start
out with
the word of
God and
then lose
their way



Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21; Luke 8:13

“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”

Weeds may grow and take all the nourishment the plants need to survive

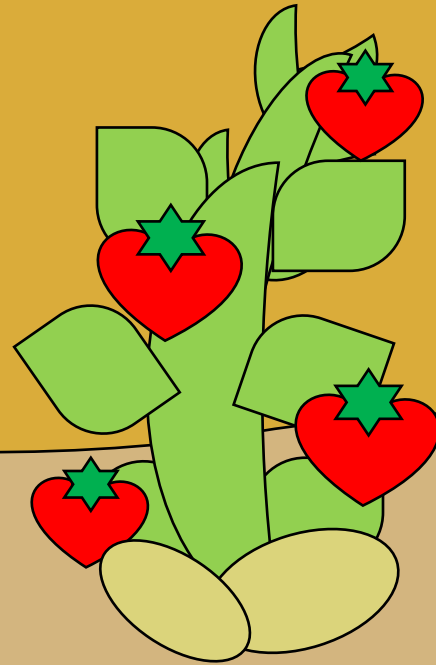


The gospel may be planted in our hearts but if not nourished it will be forgotten with the cares of the world

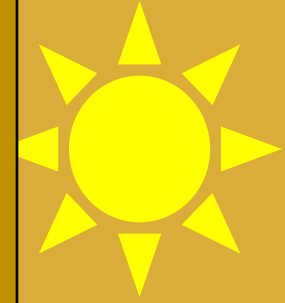
Matthew 13:7, 22; Luke 8:14

“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection”

The Plants
that are
deeply rooted
and can
endure the
weather and
other
destructive
forces will
bear fruit



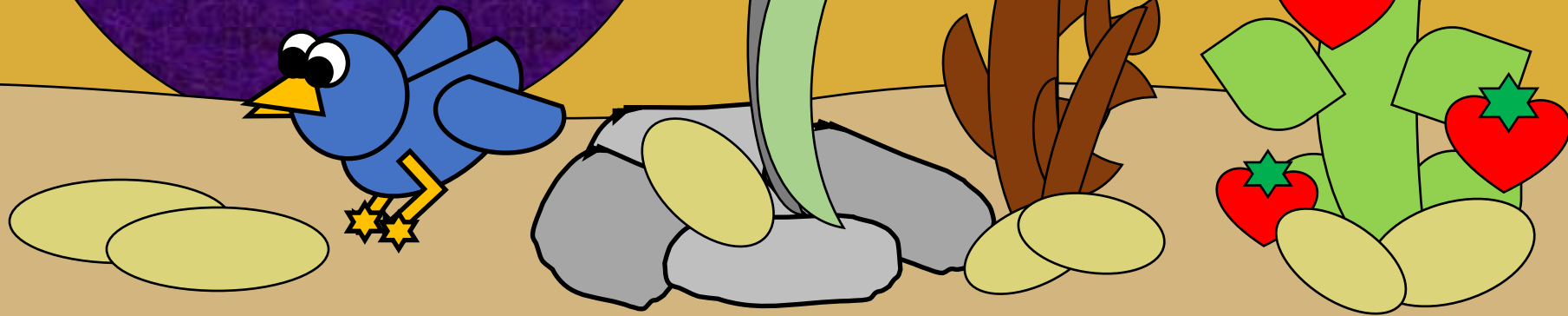
These are
they that are
deeply
rooted in the
Gospel and
the
knowledge of
Jesus Christ
for the
blessings will
come



Matthew 13:8, 23; Luke 8:15

“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

The Sowers...
the seeds grow
differently depending
on the ground they
fall on.



Parable of the Sower
(planting the seed)

Lehi's Dream
(reactions to the tree of life)

Some seeds fell by the way side
(Luke 8:5) (Matthew 13:4,19)

Some went directly to the great and spacious
building
(1 Nephi 8:31:32)

Some seeds grew, then withered in the sun
(Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21)

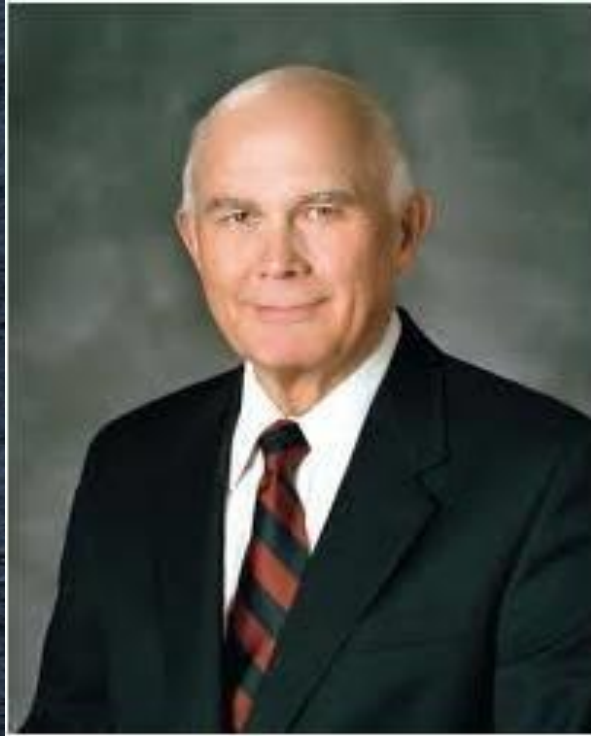
Some partook of the fruit, then fell away
(1Nephi 8:25)

Some grew among thorns and choked
(Luke 8:7) (Matthew 13:7, 22)

Some started on the path, then wandered off
(1 Nephi 8:23)

Some grew in good soil and brought forth fruit
(Luke 8:8) (Matthew 13:8, 23)

Some partook of the fruit and stayed by the
tree
(1 Nephi 8:30)



We have the seed of the gospel word. It is up to each of us to set the priorities and to do the things that make our soil good and our harvest plentiful.

We must seek to be firmly rooted and converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We achieve this conversion by praying, by scripture reading, by serving, and by regularly partaking of the sacrament to always have His Spirit to be with us.

(10)

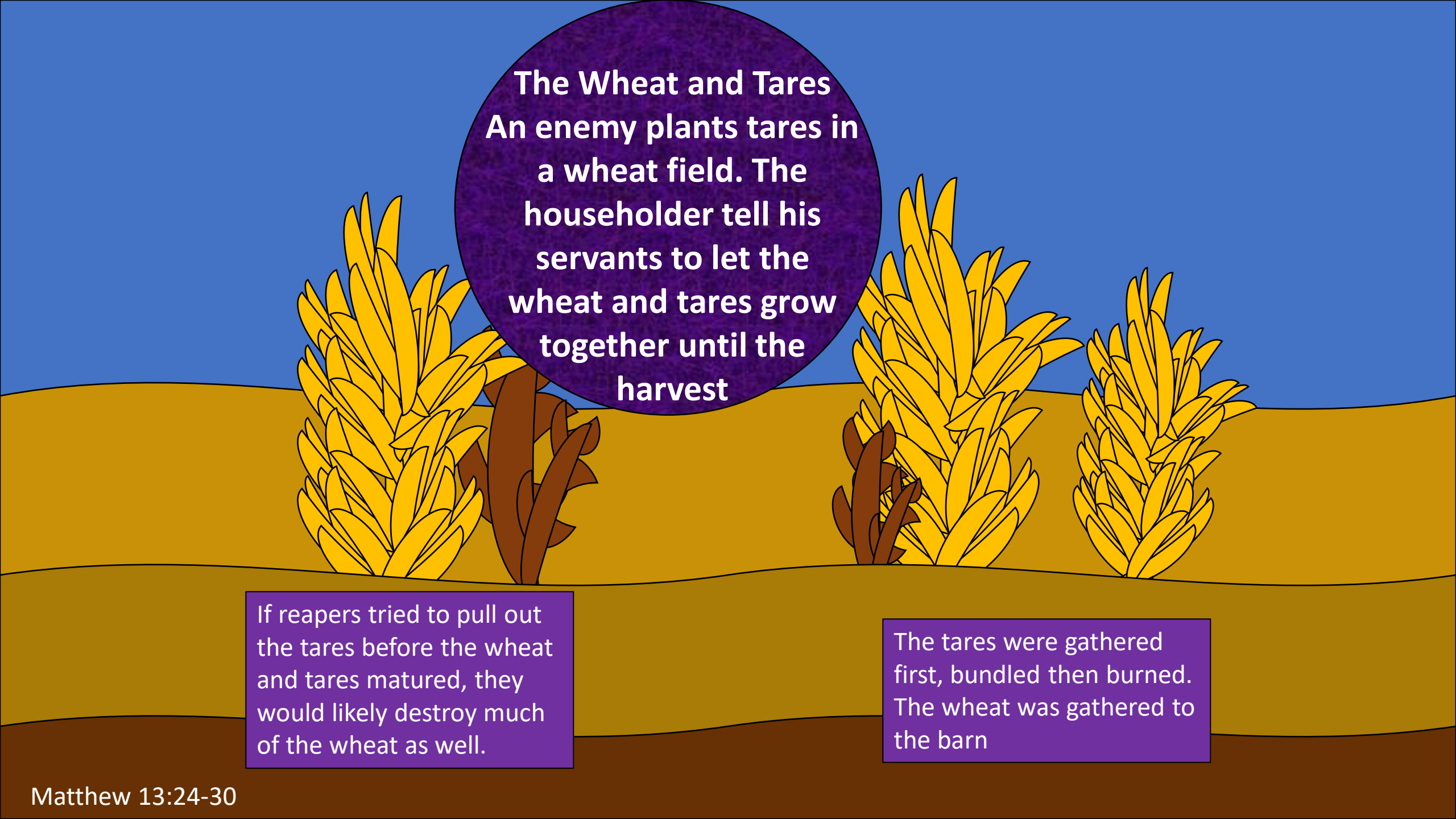
Who was the first person in your family to join the Church?

Who helped invite them to the Church?

How has this family member's membership in the Church affected your life?

How might your decision to keep your covenants with God influence others?



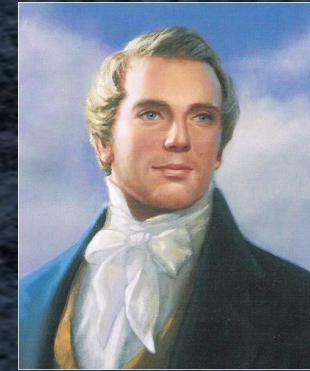


The Wheat and Tares
An enemy plants tares in
a wheat field. The
householder tell his
servants to let the
wheat and tares grow
together until the
harvest

If reapers tried to pull out the tares before the wheat and tares matured, they would likely destroy much of the wheat as well.

The tares were gathered first, bundled then burned. The wheat was gathered to the barn

“We learn by this parable [of wheat and tares], not only the setting up of the Kingdom in the days of the Savior, which is represented by the good seed, which produced fruit, but also the corruptions of the Church, which are represented by the tares, which were sown by the enemy, which His disciples would fain have plucked up, or cleansed the Church of, if their views had been favored by the Savior.



But He, knowing all things, says, Not so. As much as to say, your views are not correct, the Church is in its infancy, and if you take this rash step, you will destroy the wheat, or the Church, with the tares; therefore it is better to let them grow together until the harvest, or the end of the world, which means the destruction of the wicked, which is not yet fulfilled” (3)

The Lord is gathering those who are willing to let God prevail in their lives.

The Lord is gathering those who will choose to let God be the most important influence in their lives.

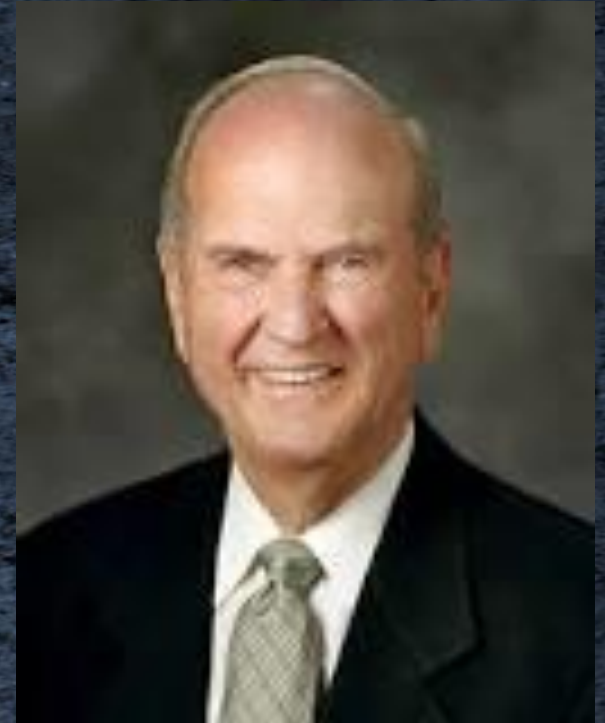
For centuries, prophets have foretold this gathering, and it is happening right now! As an essential prelude to the Second Coming of the Lord, it is *the most important work in the world!*

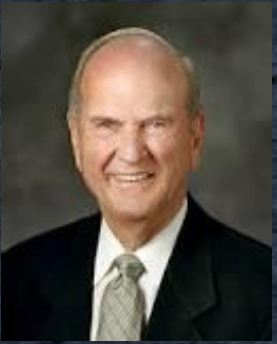
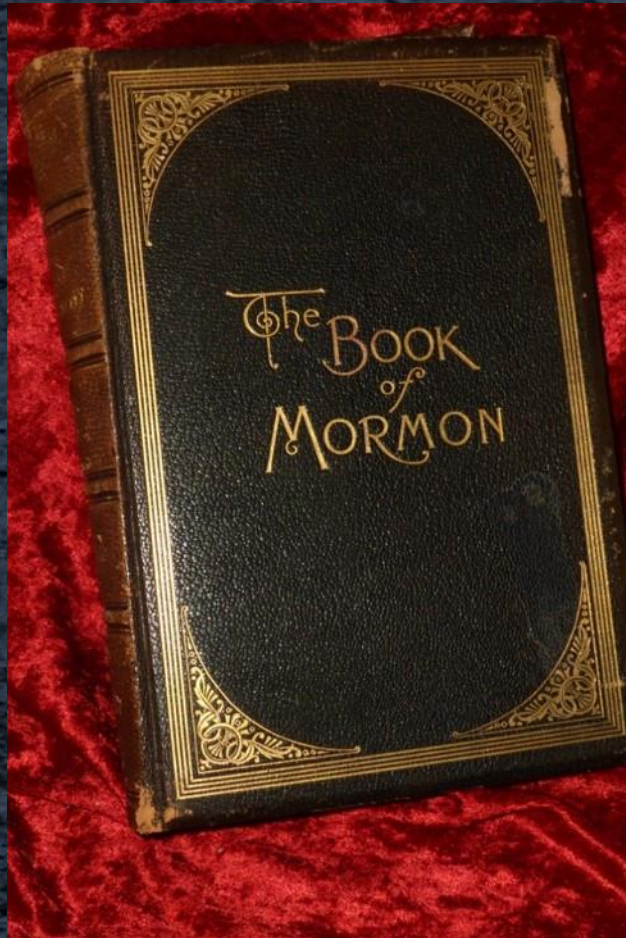
This premillennial gathering is an individual saga of expanding faith and spiritual courage for millions of people. And as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or “latter-day covenant Israel,” we have been charged to assist the Lord with this pivotal work.

When we speak of gathering Israel on both sides of the veil, we are referring, of course, to missionary, temple, and family history work.

We are also referring to building faith and testimony in the hearts of those with whom we live, work, and serve. Anytime we do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—to make and keep their covenants with God, we are helping to gather Israel.

(11)





The Book of Mormon is central to this work.

It declares the doctrine of the gathering.

It causes people to learn about Jesus Christ, to believe His gospel, and to join His Church.

In fact, if there were no Book of Mormon, the promised gathering of Israel would not occur.

(11)

The Lord will gather the righteous during the last days and then destroy the wicked at His Second Coming

Sources:

1. Guide to the Scriptures
2. Elder Thomas S. Monson *Conference Report, April 1965, Second Day-Morning Meeting* 48
3. Joseph Smith (in *History of the Church*, 5:261). *Teachings of Joseph Smith* p. 102, 299-303
4. Matthias F. Cowley *Talks on Doctrine* p. 179
5. Elder Bruce R. McConkie *Mortal Messiah* 2:266
6. *Bible dictionary*
7. John Bythway *Of Pigs, Pearls & Prodigals* p. 46
8. David A. Bednar, “Watchful unto Prayer Continually,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2019, 34
9. Joseph Smith “To the Elders of the Church of the Latter Day Saints,” *Latter Day Saints’ Messenger and Advocate*, Dec. 1835, 2:225; spelling, capitalization, and punctuation modernized).
10. Dallin H. Oaks, “The Parable of the Sower,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2015, 35.
11. Russell M. Nelson, “Let God Prevail,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 92–93; Russell M. Nelson, “The Gathering of Scattered Israel,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 80

Parable Comparison to Lehi's dream

Parables: Other rules of interpretation are:

(a) Do not force a meaning on subordinate incidents.

(b) Do not regard as parallel parables that are connected by superficial likeness of imagery.

(c) Bear in mind that the same illustration does not always have the same significance—for example, leaven signifies a principle of good as well as a principle of evil.

(d) Remember that the comparison in a parable is not complete, does not touch at every point. Thus, the characters of the unjust judge or the unjust steward or the nobleman who went into a far country—possibly referring to the infamous Archelaus—do not concern the interpretation of the parable.

The parable draws a picture of life as it is, not as it ought to be, and compares certain points in this picture with heavenly doctrine.

(e) Observe the proper proportions of a parable, and do not make the episode more prominent than the main line of teaching.

Bible Dictionary

Matthew 13:4-23	Lehi's Dream
Some seeds fell by the way side Matthew 13:4, 19	Some went directly to the great and spacious building 1 Nephi 8:31-32
Some seeds grew, then withered in the sun Matthew 13:5-6; 20-21	Some partook of the fruit, then fell away 1 Nephi 8;25
Some grew among thorns and choked Matthew 13:7, 22	Some started on the path, then wandered off 1 Nephi 8:23
Some grew in good soil and brought forth fruit Matthew 13:8, 23	Some partook of the fruit and stayed by the tree 1 Nephi 8:30

Matthew	Mark	Luke
The House Built Upon a Rock (7:24-27)	The seed growing secretly (4:26-29)	The Two Debtors (7:36-50)
The Sower (4 kinds of soil) (13:3-9, 18-23)		The Sower (8:4-15)
The Wheat and Tares (13:24-30; 36-43)		The Good Samaritan (10:25-37)
The Mustard Seed (13:31-32)		The Foolish Rich Man (12:16-21)
The Leaven (13:33)	Parables in the New Testament	The Barren Fig Tree (13:6-9)
The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price (13:44-46)		The Chief Seats (14:7-11)
The draw-net (13:47-50)		The Great Supper (14:16-24)
The Householder (13:51-52)		The Uncompleted Tower and the King's Warfare (14:28-33)
The Unmerciful Servant (18:23-35)		The Lost Sheep (15:3-7)
The Laborers in the Vineyard (20:1-16)		The Lost Coin (15:8-10)
The Two Sons (21:28-31)		The Lost Prodigal Son (15:11-32)
The Wicked Husbandmen (21:33-46)		The Unjust Steward (16:19-31)
The Royal Marriage(22:1-14)	John has no true parables but presents two allegories: the good shepherd (John 10:1–16) and the vine and the branches (15:17). (1)	The Rich Man and Lazarus (18:1-8)
The 10 Virgins (25:1-13)		The Pharisee and the Publican (18:9-14)
The Talents 25:14-30)		The Pounds (19:12-27)
The Sheep and the Goats (25:31-46)		

Wheat and Tares Matthew 13:36-43

Tares occurs in the New Testament only in this one parable. The Greek word *zizanon*, translated as ‘tares,’ is said to come from a Semitic root and refers to weeds in grain . Most assume it is the somewhat poisonous bearded darnel, or weed grass (Ogden and Skinner, *Verse by Verse*, 219-92)

If there are dandelions among the wheat, it’s easy to tell the good and bad pants apart. But tares look like wheat in their early stages of growth. The roots of the two plants often grow together and intertwine, making it difficult to remove the tares without damaging the wheat. [planted in spring, grown in summer and harvested in fall] *Of Pigs, Pearls & Prodigals* by John Bytheway p. 20-21

Parallels: Son of Man = The sower; Field= the world; Good seed= children of the kingdom; the enemy = the devil; harvest = end of world; Reapers = angels

Mustard Seed Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus compares it to a tiny mustard seed that grows into a plant large enough for a bird to build its nest. Jesus’ audiences also knew that mustard plants would appear as a splotch of yellow on a hillside one day, and quickly spread across the entire hill, cloaking it with a brilliant yellow. In this annual act of nature, listeners could envision the spread of god’s kingdom.

Leaven Matthew 13:33

“For the works of this example, see the Book of Mormon coming forth out of the treasure of the heart. Also the covenants given to the Latter-day Saints [the Doctrine and Covenants], also the translation of the Bible—thus bringing forth out of the heart things new and old, thus answering to three measures of meal undergoing the purifying touch by a revelation of Jesus Christ, ... which will answer to the leaven which leavened the whole lump” (*Teachings: Joseph Smith*, 302–3).

Bread, along with water, was considered an essential of life. Except for the Sabbath, all mornings began with the women grinding wheat. Each family ad a courtyard oven for baking bread. Bread was often dipped in olive oil or pureed legumes, or used as a spoon to scoop up and eat other food. Joel Kauffman (*Nazareth Jesus Knew*, 28)

Treasures and Pearl of Great Price Matthew 13:44-46

Through its entire history, Palestine has been a land where its inhabitants have often buried treasure in its ground. Foreign foes have many times swept through the land to plunder. Many times have valuable possessions been buried in secret places. This was often done by men before leaving for battle, or before going on a long journey. If they returned safely they would be able to reclaim their buried treasure. But if they died in battle, or for any other reason failed to return, the place where the valuables were hidden would remain a lost secret. Because of this situation, there always has been a looking for hidden treasure by certain people all over the Holy Land Fred H. Wight(Manners and Customs, 249) found in *Of Pigs, Pearls & Prodigals* by John Bytheway

Rabbinic law of the time: If one finds a treasure on another’s property, he cannot take it on the spot but must purchase the land in order to obtain the treasure. This man, then, purchased the field and obtained title to the land. In other words, he did not receive the gospel outside the covenant; instead, he became a legal member of the Church (Understanding the Parable, 43 by Jay A. and Donald W. Parry

Pearls were the costliest of gems, and wealthy people purchased them as investments. The Talmud speks of pearls as being beyond price. The Egyptians actually worshiped them. John refers them in Rev. 21:21 as in the vision of the heavenly city revealed gates that are giant pearls.

Draw-nets Matthew 13:47-50

This way of fishing illustrates the value of co-operative effort. A number of men will work together. Some of them will row the boats, some will pull the rope with great strength, and some will throw stones or in other ways seek to keep the fish from getting away by frightening them. As they get close to the shore, the edges of the net are held, and it is dragged to land and the fish must be seized. Afterward the fish caught are sorted. Fred h. Wight (*Manners and Customs*, 216)