

## “SIGNS OF THE TIME - DETERIORATION OR RESTORATION? Part III” (Matt. 13)

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**INTRO:** Are bad things happening a sign of the times – a sign of Christ’s soon return (Isa. 9:7; Eph. 5:27; Acts 3:20-21)?

### THREE REASONS FOR THIS SERIES:

1. To be prepared for increased persecution & tribulation.
2. To plan generationally to fulfill The Great Commission.
3. To believe the church can make a greater impact.

**The Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23):** The vast majority of seed would be sown on good soil and produce far more than the few seeds lost that would fall inadvertently on unproductive soil (Acts 6:7; Col. 1:5-6, 23).

### The Parable of the Wheat & Tares (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

1. Tares were sown in a good field of wheat (vv. 24-27).
2. The wheat would have greatly outnumbered the tares.
  - A. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom (v. 38).
  - B. Tares are the sons of the wicked one (v. 38).
3. Instructions: Don’t separate until the harvest (vv. 28-29).
  - A. The harvest is the end of the age (v. 39).
4. The tares are gathered “*first*” at harvest time (vv. 30, 40)!
  - A. The tares are separated from the wheat, not the wheat from the tares [“*taken out of His kingdom*”] (vv. 41-42)!
  - B. Which is “*left behind*” the tares or wheat (v. 43)?
5. Are the tares & wheat harvested at the same harvest time or 1,007 years apart? (Matt. 13:43)
6. Would a farmer expect more tares or more wheat?

### As in the Days of Noah ... (Matt. 24:36-41)

1. Jesus is God and now knows the day and hour (v. 36)!
2. Jesus’ coming will be similar to days of Noah (vv. 37, 39).
3. Before the flood came, people were living life as usual – nothing to indicate a flood was coming (v. 38).
4. The flood took away the wicked, not the righteous (v. 39)!
5. The ones taken are the wicked taken in judgment, while the righteous are left behind and spared (vv. 40-41)!

**CONCLUSION:** Why not expect the wheat to outnumber the tares at the end-of-the age harvest (Ephesians 3:20)?