

## A COMPARISON OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION AND THE SEVEN PARABLES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

THE CHURCHES AND PARABLES	THE COMPARISON
1. The Church of Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) and the Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23)	A time of sowing of God's <i>Word</i> during this era, yet there will also be a growing opposition as well as apostasy, which will continue to progress till the end of the age.
2. The Church of Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11) and the Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matt. 13:24-30)	The <i>enemy</i> is revealed, marked by increased <i>opposition</i> and <i>persecution</i> .
3. The Church at Pergamos (Rev. 2:12-17) and the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt. 13:31-32)	There will be an increased <i>outward</i> or <i>external</i> growth as the age draws to a close. There will be <i>worldly alliance</i> , the false and the true existing together, but possessing only an outward form of Christianity (Christendom).
4. The Church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29) and the Parable of the Leaven (Matt. 13:33)	The leaven illustrates the inward development of false doctrine and false living." The "meal" is the Word of God, and the woman is introducing false doctrine into the Word until it is totally corrupted.
5. The Church at Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6) and the Parable of the Hid-Treasure (Matt. 13:44)	Depicts the Reformation Church, with its discoveries of hidden truth and treasure, and especially the rediscovery of God's plan and purpose for the nation of Israel.
6. The Church of Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13) and the Parable of the Pearl (Matt. 13:45-46)	The "pearl," the <i>true church</i> of the last days, has been given an "open door" of opportunity to witness to a lost and dying world before the Tribulation hour begins.
7. The Church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22) and the Parable of the Dragnet (Matt. 13:47-49).	Philadelphia is <i>caught up</i> to be with the Lord, while Laodicea is cast out. The good fish are gathered but the bad are cast away.