

August 4–10: Doctrine and Covenants 85–87 “Stand Ye In Holy Places”

The Wheat and the Tares

Section 86 was given while Joseph Smith was working on the inspired translation of the Bible, specially, on the parable of the wheat and the tares.

Let's read the parable of the wheat and the tares from the New Testament.

Matthew 13:24-30

- 24) Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:
25) But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.
26) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.
27) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?
28) He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?
29) But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.
30) Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Now let's read the Savior's interpretation

Matthew 13:36-43

- 36) Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.
37) He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;
38) The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;
39) The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
40) As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.
41) The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;
42) And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
43) Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

What does each of items in this parable represent?

1. The man sowing seed is the Son of Man (Jesus).
2. The field is the world.
3. The good seed are the children of the kingdom (followers of Jesus).
4. The tares are children of the wicked one
5. The enemy is the devil.
6. The harvest is the end of the world.
7. The reapers are the angels sent to reap the field.
8. The tares bound and burned are the evil ones separated out and cast into fire (punishment) at the Judgment.
9. The wheat gathered into the barn represents the righteous who are separated out and made to “shine forth” in the kingdom of the Father.

Now let's compare this to the contemporary interpretation the Lord gave Joseph Smith.

D&C 86:1-7

- 1 Verily, thus saith the Lord unto you my servants, concerning the parable of the wheat and of the tares:
- 2 Behold, verily I say, the field was the world, and the apostles were the sowers of the seed;
- 3 And after they have fallen asleep the great persecutor of the church, the apostate, the whore, even Babylon, that maketh all nations to drink of her cup, in whose hearts the enemy, even Satan, sitteth to reign—behold he soweth the tares; wherefore, the tares choke the wheat and drive the church into the wilderness.
- 4 But behold, in the last days, even now while the Lord is beginning to bring forth the word, and the blade is springing up and is yet tender—
- 5 Behold, verily I say unto you, the angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields;
- 6 But the Lord saith unto them, pluck not up the tares while the blade is yet tender (for verily your faith is weak), lest you destroy the wheat also.
- 7 Therefore, let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest is fully ripe; then ye shall first gather out the wheat from among the tares, and after the gathering of the wheat, behold and lo, the tares are bound in bundles, and the field remaineth to be burned.

What is the timeframe of the two different “sowings” given in these verses?

(the apostles were the sowers... and after they have fallen asleep
in the last days, even now... the blade is springing up)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The sowing of the seed occurred twice, once by our Lord and His Apostles at the time of His ministry. The wicked one sowed the tares, and drove the Church into the wilderness. That has reference to the apostasy. Then again in this, our day, when the Gospel is again restored, this same thing is repeated. The good seed is sowed. The wicked one comes along and sows

the tares, and the angels are now waiting, pleading with the Lord to reap down the earth.” (Signs of the Times, pg. 93)

During the meridian of time, what “[drove] the church into the wilderness”?

(Satan... soweth the tares; wherefore, the tares choke the wheat)

What else do you think is clarified in these verses?

1. Original 12 were sowers of the seed
2. After they were gone the tares caused the Great Apostasy
3. In these, the last days the wheat (word) is planted again
4. At the time of this revelation the Lord considered the blade still tender
5. The angels are waiting reap the fields (destroy the tares)
6. The Lord will not destroy the tares while the wheat (faith of the Saints) is weak.

Neal A. Maxwell

“Years ago, I wondered over the scriptural imagery of angels waiting ‘day and night’ for ‘the great command’ to come down and reap the tares in a wicked and suffering world; it seemed rather eager to me. Given such massive, needless human suffering, I don’t wonder anymore!

“Even so, the final reaping will occur only when the Father determines that the world is ‘fully ripe.’ Meanwhile, brothers and sisters, the challenge is surviving spiritually in a deteriorating ‘wheat and tares’ world.” (CR, April 1993)

Revelation and Prophecy on War

Section 87 is referred to as a “revelation and prophecy on war”

D&C 87:1-4

1 Verily, thus saith the Lord concerning the wars that will shortly come to pass, beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina, which will eventually terminate in the death and misery of many souls;

2 And the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning at this place.

3 For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and then war shall be poured out upon all nations.

4 And it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their masters, who shall be marshaled and disciplined for war.

Which parts of this revelation do you think have been fulfilled and which do you think are still being fulfilled?

(the rebellion of South Carolina
the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States)

(the time will come that war will be poured out upon all nations, beginning
at this place
it shall come to pass, after many days, slaves shall rise up against their
masters)

Joseph L. Wirthlin

“The Prophet Joseph gave us this marvelous revelation in 1832. The Civil War came in 1861; the war between Denmark and Prussia in 1864; Italy and Austria in 1865 and 1866; Austria and Prussia in 1866; Russia and Turkey in 1877; China and Japan in 1894 and 1895; Spanish-American in 1898; Japan and Russia in 1904 and 1905; World War I from 1914 to 1918;... Ethiopia and Italy [in 1937].... Then, the World War just passed and, of course, the Korean War.

“These nations of Russia, China, Korea, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Arabia, Lebanon—all of these nations are now in an attitude of war of some kind.”
(CR, Oct. 1958)

D&C 87:5

5 And it shall come to pass also that the remnants who are left of the land will marshal themselves, and shall become exceedingly angry, and shall vex the Gentiles with a sore vexation.

Do you think this prophesy has been fulfilled, is being fulfilled, or has yet to be fulfilled?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“There are millions of the ‘remnant’ in Mexico, Central and South America. It was during our Civil War that the [Mexicans] up and gained their freedom from the tyranny which Napoleon endeavored to inflict upon them.... The independence of Mexico and other nations to the south has been accomplished by the uprising of the ‘remnant’ upon the land. However, let us not think that this prophecy has completely been fulfilled.” (Church History and Modern Revelation, 1:363)

D&C 87:6-8

6 And thus, with the sword and by bloodshed the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine, and plague, and earthquake, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightning also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath, and indignation, and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed hath made a full end of all nations;

7 That the cry of the saints, and of the blood of the saints, shall cease to come up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth, from the earth, to be avenged of their enemies.

8 Wherefore, stand ye in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come; for behold, it cometh quickly, saith the Lord. Amen.

What do you think the Lord means when He admonishes us to “stand ye in holy places, and be not moved”?

Ezra Taft Benson

"We will live in the midst of economic, political, and spiritual instability. When these signs are observed—unmistakable evidences that His coming is nigh—we need not be troubled, but 'stand... in holy places, and be not moved, until the day of the Lord come.'

"Holy men and women stand in holy places, and these holy places consist of our temples, our chapels, our homes, and the stakes of Zion, which are, as the Lord declares, 'for a defense, and for a refuge from the storm, and from wrath when it shall be poured out without mixture upon the whole earth.' (D&C 115:6) We must heed the Lord's counsel to the Saints of this dispensation: 'Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord' (D&C 133:10)." (Come unto Christ, pg. 115-6)