PARABLES

OF OUR LORD

- TOTAL NUMBER OF PARABLES: 37

- GOSPEL OF LUKE: 24 PARABLES (10 of them unique)

- GOSPEL OF MATTHEW: 23 PARABLES (6 of them unique)

- GOSPEL OF MARK: 8 PARABLES (1 of them unique)

- GOSPEL OF JOHN: NO PARABLES

MORE THAN **ONE-THIRD** OF THE TEACHINGS
OF JESUS.

PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM IN MATT. 13

1. The Sower

2. The Wheat & The Weeds

3. The Mustard Seed

4. The Leaven

5. The Hidden Treasure

6. The Pearl of Great Price

7. The Dragnet

DEFINITION

"An earthly story with a heavenly meaning."

Parabole (from Para = alongside, ballo = to throw or cast).

The placing of or that which is thrown alongside one thing beside another with a view to comparison.
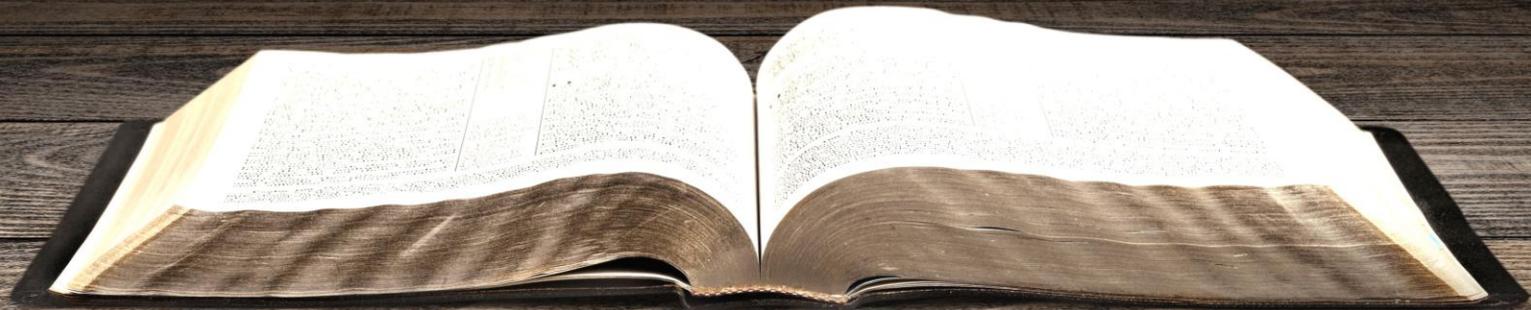
DEFINITION CONT'D.

The familiar is thrown alongside the unfamiliar.

The common everyday images used to communicate unfamiliar things or supernatural things.

A popular Rabbanical method of teaching (interest, memory, simplicity, familiarity, preservation of truth).

THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES

(Matt. 13:10-17; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:9-10)

1. The Revelation of truth

2. The Concealment of truth

3. Context of the unpardonable sin (Matt.12)

UNDERSTANDING/INTERPRETING PARABLES

- One central meaning/message
- The details or incidents are merely "drapery" and they remain to explain the main thought
- All details may not be significant

1. Ascertain the main truth
2. Do not hunt for meaning in every detail
3. Validate the main truth with Scripture
4. Give attention to cultural & historical setting

"The primary lesson or lessons of a parable must be grasped, but not each and every detail is always to be forced to yield a distinct lesson. Parables are like pictures in that they require the details to make up the general picture but without each detail having of necessity a special and separate lesson. It may or may not be so"
(G. H. Lang, The Parabolic Teaching of Scripture, p.17).