

Scripture reading, Matt. 13, Parable of the Wheat and the Tares - up to 3

I believe that most of you realize that a parable is not a complete allegory. A parable may be simple meant to take one very simple truth and drive it home. And all the rest of the parable may be simply illustrative material to make this one point and drive it home. Now, that is not true of all parables. Some of them go a certain distance in the direction of allegory. This one goes quite a way in that direction. The explanation shows very clearly that there is not just one specific truth in this parable, because a number of the factors in it are declared to stand for specific actual reality. Thus we read here, that the one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, that the field is the world, that the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares ~~are~~ are the children of the wicked one, the enemy that sows them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels. Now that's a good many different elements of the parable which exactly correspond to actual elements in the real world. But that does not mean that the parable is entirely an allegory in the sense that everything in it exactly corresponds and represents something in the real world. There are certainly elements in it which you cannot exactly transfer to the real world. The devil had sown the ~~(atres)~~ tares, and the tares are the children of the devil. but that does not mean, of course, that God does not create everybody. That does not mean that He is not in one sense the father of all by creation, ~~that~~ that we are not all in that sense His creation, His children. The devil did not create anybody. The devil has corrupted, the devil has led astray, ^{but} the devil ^{himself} has been created. Those who are finally impotent, ~~they~~ they are in a true sense the children of the devil, but not the children of the devil by ~~direct~~ creation. He did not sow the seed ~~x~~ in the sense that they came into existence through his ~~own~~ having created them. And on the other hand, the sowing of good seed by the Son of Man, we do not think of it as a situation where here's the devil and a lot of wicked people, and here's God with a lot of good people, and they both come and sow seed and they get all mixed together. It is not that at all. God has created this world, and he has created human beings. ~~we~~ and we are all children of Adam and we are all implicated in Adam's sin. ~~And we are implicated in this sin, and the~~ ^{all of} devil has led us astray. He led Adam astray,