

Chapter 2

Hidden Truths From Hidden Manna: Why Symbolism and Allegory?

Before beginning the study of The Two, let me state here that in this book I attempt to prove from Scripture that The Two represent the prophetic priesthood (warrior apostles) that stand in battle during the first half of the tribulation week. The Two display total unity with our Lord and demonstrate this unity with a determination to not compromise Him even if it means death. We also look at why the Lord at first allows the development of a priesthood, which is not pleasing to Him, during the last age.

Rationale for Accepting this Study

Many denominations today seek to interpret the entire Word literally. This renders their people almost entirely ignorant of the hidden truth found in Daniel, Ezekiel, the lesser prophets, and the book of Revelation. The understanding of this truth is so very vital to the last Christian generation of this age. Considering that our Lord states His people perish for lack of knowledge (Ho 4:6), we should welcome His truth however He chooses to present it.

It seems that it is more important to the Lord what we become than what we actually do. What we become must be under His direct supervision, and during the becoming we do the works laid out for us (Eph. 2:10). The freedom to become occurs only in Christ. Does this mean we can do anything or become anything we wish? Up to a point. Paul states that all things are not beneficial particularly sin (1Cor. 6:12). Yet we must remember the promise in RO 8:28: *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* So if we stray, in the Lord’s sovereignty He has his way in using that poor decision on our part to teach us and transform us into His image. Through what we learn, it leads us to become and to do what He so desires. Please understand that this in no way infringes on our ability to make choices either good or evil. It simply places our Lord in charge of the final outcome. There are several verses that reveal His work in our lives. Psalm 138:8 states, *“The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands” NKJV* and PHP 1:6 says, *“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”(NIV)*. I am coming from a position that our Lord is sovereign in our lives and we are not. A little child may give his parents a lot of trouble but a set of good parents looks after and trains him up in the way he should go. If you choose to do a study on the growth and maturing of Peter, one of Christ’s apostles, I believe you would see a pattern that is still evident in many Christians’ growth patterns today. Our Lord is the perfect Father, and we become what He intends for each of us. I thank my Lord for that promise and for the peace and security it gives.

Remember an old prophet by the name of Jonah? He is called on by the Lord to go and speak to a sinful people in Nineveh. His response is, “No,” to the Lord! He runs off to Tarshish in an attempt to escape from the Lord’s command. Our Lord could simply select another individual to do this work, and that would be the end of the matter,

but He is not be deterred. He selects Jonah for that ministry, and something in Jonah has to be changed. If you do your own study on Jonah, you will see that eventually Jonah becomes obedient to our Lord. Change is what our Lord desires in us. The Bride, whom He is working to restore and perfect, is to be without spot or wrinkle. She becomes faithful, loyal, and loves Him for who He is; she eventually comes to believe He is whom He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.

All sixty-six books in the Bible point to one course of action and objective of our Lord. That goal is to produce a bride fit for the Son of God. This bride, whom He loves much, becomes bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. In other words she becomes very much like her Groom in all respects. However Christians are not called to be carbon copies of each other; they are called to become what the Lord determines for them so all may fit together and be built up into one body. Note that, in *RO 12:4* (“*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function.*”), we see the Lord designates each of us to have different but complementary functions.

Now then, much of the evidence in this study is gathered from symbolic and allegorical interpretation. All of this knowledge, although hidden in the Word since the beginning, God reveals at the end of this age. Understand that the hidden truths are not new truths, but truths that have been there all the time. The Lord is opening His scrolls in these end times (Dan. 12:4; Rev. 10:4). Many of the types that are disclosed, the typological method of interpretation, illustrate hidden truths; they are not of themselves new truth. This knowledge is not for the whole body of Christ, although it is certainly available for all to read. Some Christians, due to various reasons, elect not to accept it or may not deem it important enough with which to bother. This type of evidence (symbolism and allegory) renders this study unacceptable to many, but for those to whom God gives “eyes to see,” a gold mine awaits. The truths that lie within the covers of this study are given entirely into the Lord’s hands and He directs them, in His own timing, to people who need this wisdom.

Scriptural Evidence for Hidden Knowledge

Scripture openly gives in many places clues and types of the symbolism that it contains and then, of course, there are hidden truths (wisdom) that must be mined like gold (Job 28:1-10). This entails great sacrificial toil and considerable help from the Holy Spirit. Many Christians are happy to learn a few “one liners,” favorite Scriptures that have meaning for them. A few become familiar with whole books of the Bible, but very few begin seeing relationships among all sixty-six books. Many Bible teachers state that there is a scarlet thread throughout every book of the Bible. The Lord leaves his stamp of authenticity in each book.

Just one reason to know and use biblical symbolism is to see and to gain understanding of the purpose for “The Day of the Lord” in most of the books of Scripture. Eschatology is embedded somewhere in each book of the Bible and, cumulatively, the books contribute wisdom regarding the events that occur at the end of this age. This wisdom lends faith, safety, and empowerment to many readers. Since the time seems very short to develop that ability to see, this book is available to shorten the time necessary to develop that insight. A short list here shows some of the open clues

and types given in Scripture to authenticate the use of allegory or typology. I leave it up to the reader to explore the depths of these Scriptures.

Hosea 12:10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions; I have given **symbols** (*told parables NIV*) through the witness of the prophets."

Galatians 4:23-24

But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are **symbolic** (*may be taken figuratively NIV*). For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai, which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar...

Hebrews 9:8-10

The Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of all **was not yet made manifest** (*had not yet been disclosed NIV*) while the first tabernacle was still standing. **It was symbolic for the present time** (*an illustration for the present time NIV*) in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

Romans 5:14

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, **who is a type** (*who was a pattern NIV*) of Him who was to come.

1 Peter 3:20-21

...who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. There is also **an antitype** (*and this water symbolizes NIV*), which now saves us---baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The number *eight* in the above Scripture signifies that *sin has been openly confessed*, that is, *true repentance before Him has occurred*. It is this righteous act that results in cleansing by Him.

Genesis 13:10

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) **like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.**

Exodus 15:10 & 12

You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; **they sank like lead** in the mighty waters.

15:12 **You stretched out Your right hand; the earth swallowed them.**

Isaiah 8:18

ISA 8:18 Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! **We are for signs and wonders** (NIV **signs & symbols**) in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells in Mount Zion.

Zechariah 3:8

ZEC 3:8 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, for **they are a wondrous sign;** (NIV **who are men symbolic of things to come**) for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the **BRANCH.**

Reasons for the Lord Hiding Certain Truths

During this study the technique of how to mine the Word for the hidden truths is as important as the study of symbolism itself, possibly more. It is sort of like that old axiom: give a man a fish and he will eat one day, teach him to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life. The proper study procedures (finding the keys for the locks) are treated in detail in a later chapter.

Why would our Lord hide certain truths in His Word even from some of his saints? Let's look at some Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew. Many of the other gospels back up these Scriptures, particularly those in Mark. In the following Scriptures Jesus thanks the Father that He has hidden things from the socially well-promoted people and given these same truths to babes. How interesting! Now why would He do that?

MT 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

MT 11:26 "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

MT 11:27 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

In MT 11:26 Jesus mentions that the decision to hide these truths was good in our Lord's sight. We must accept if our Lord ascertains it as *good*, then it is good even if we do not know why or even agree with it. In MT 11:27 Jesus states that not all know the Father but if He (Jesus) wills it, the Father reveals Him to the individual. Remember the discussion between Philip and Jesus?

JOH 14:8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

JOH 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

This is a very poignant set of Scriptures. Jesus' apostles are asking for something that has already been done for them. The connection between the Father and the Son being one is not present in their minds. Jesus reveals the Father to them, and they miss the point. He has to point it out directly to them giving them "eyes to see."

Understanding for Those Who Are Called to See

Below is another reason why some Scriptures are hidden. Let us look further into MT 13:10-15.

MT 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in **parables?**"

MT 13:11 He answered and said to them, "**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.**

MT 13:12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

MT 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in **parables**, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

MT 13:14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive;

MT 13:15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts **and turn, So that I should heal them.**'

MT 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

In the above verses, we have the disciples asking why the Lord speaks in parables to others and in particular to the Pharisees and Sadducees. Jesus answers that He selects the disciples to know the mysteries but that the others are not selected to know. And, further, Jesus points out that they are incapable of hearing and seeing without help. We also see something akin to this in 2 CO 4:3 "*But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.*" Paul expounds that those who cannot see are those who are perishing. Apparently our Lord, in ways He chooses, must reveal spiritual truths. Jesus makes a very clear point that if they were given the ability to hear and see, they would turn to Him, and they would be healed. In JOH 5:25 Jesus states: "*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who **hear will live.***" Jesus connects hearing and understanding with being given life. Conversely in JOH 8:47, Jesus speaking to the Jews states: "*He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.*"

An Understanding of the Word For Spiritual Fruit Production

It seems that the ability to hear or not to hear is not our choice, but it is entirely the will of the Lord. (I suppose this could bring up a very old controversy regarding free will. I am not going to prove or disprove this point but would refer you to an excellent study of our Lord's Sovereignty, in this area, by Arthur Pink titled *The Sovereignty of God*.) Jesus ends by telling his disciples that they are blessed because they have been chosen to have the ability to hear and see mysteries. It follows then they would be healed. This concept, of course, tends toward the doctrine of *election*, with which some portions of the body of Christ today have a great problem understanding. What is important here

is what you believe and are willing to believe because in Matthew 13:23 (*"But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*) there is a connection between a proper understanding of the Word and the bearing of spiritual fruit. There are other things that also affect its production as well. It is extremely important to our Lord that we bear much fruit. Technically it is His fruit produced through us that furthers His will. Hidden truth revealed at the proper time humbles the person who receives it, authenticates His Word, deepens the person's faith, and makes wisdom available. All of these characteristics lead to fruit production.

Some other reasons why the Lord uses symbolism and allegory are: keeping truths hidden until the proper time, building faith, authenticating His Word, and preventing those who are not to be healed from hearing and seeing. Note below that it states that Jesus speaks in parables to the multitudes and in parables only.

MT 13:34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them,

MT 13:35 that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

He speaks truths that are kept hidden for a long time. However all who listen to the parables still do not hear and understand. The understanding comes only to those people whom Jesus chooses to reveal those mysteries. When the disciples come to him in private, he explains the parables to them. We see this in Luke 24:45: *"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."* It is still true today that, even among Christians, there are mysteries that are revealed only to the ones who are called to require this knowledge. There are three disciples among the twelve who were quite close to Jesus and one of them, John, was very close. Scholars support the idea that John wrote the book of Revelation, and it is a revelation of our Christ and much of the end days' happenings. Without the use of symbolism, much of that book cannot be properly understood and it follows that those who do see have been given those eyes to see. Eschatology, which is the study of the events at the end of this age, is a very popular subject today with more books written on this topic than I would care to mention, much less read. Few of the writers properly use symbolism; consequently, there is a significant amount of Christian literature today on this topic that is in error, to put it politely.

When Jesus finishes explaining the parables about which the disciples ask Him, He asks them if they understand his explanation. They respond that they do in Mt 13:51. Take note of the Scripture immediately following.

MT 13:51 Jesus said to them, "Have you understood all these things?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

MT 13:52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things **new and old.**"

Now that they are given truths directly from our Lord, Jesus explains that each of them, at the proper time, is expected when teaching to bring out these same truths (treasures). He categorizes them as new and old.

Eschatology – The First Miracle, an Example of a Hidden Truth

At the end of the Book of Daniel our Lord states that the vision given to Daniel is for the time of the end, and that it is sealed up until it is needed (Dan 12:9). Daniel perhaps does not quite know what is shown to him. But today the Holy Spirit is opening that book and bringing out truths from it for the first time even though the truths have been there all of the time. He is giving certain individuals eyes to see and ears to hear. It is now time for those teachers, who are anointed to serve, to understand the truths and to disseminate them to the proper recipients.

Let's begin this journey by looking at one set of Scriptures from a symbolic standpoint. This Scripture involves the first miracle that Jesus does.

JOH 2:6 Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

JOH 2:7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

JOH 2:8 And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

JOH 2:9 When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

JOH 2:10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Consider this symbolic interpretation: the number *six* can designate *the sixth day of the Lord's creation of his spiritual bride* because one day equals a thousand years in the Lord's sight (2 Peter 3:8). It also can signify *a time of great iniquity or uncleanness*. Water pots are used in Jesus' time for washing or cleansing and so is our Lord's Word today used for cleansing. There is a wedding going on and much wine has already been drunk. The time represented is at the end of the sixth day (now) and the best wine (knowledge of the last great move of God) is now about to be served. The master of the banquet is symbolically the Father, and Jesus (the Bridegroom) is presenting Him with the end days' events and truths with which the Holy Spirit fills that generation. The Father highly commends the type of wine to be served at the end.

Reader, I believe this study contains some of that "good wine." The NIV states it to be the best or choice wine (John 2:10). Evaluate the new wine that is served in the pages to come, and possibly you may find me to be one of those servants who have drawn up the water to fill the stone pots. And for you, oh sleepy stone pot, may the best wine that is saved till last bring about in you a change desired by our Lord. May it give you great energy and joy. You are to be poured out at the proper time, and I assure you

that “the best wine” has a mighty maturing affect! Your time is not wasted in study as our Lord states that His Word never goes forth void but accomplishes what He so desires (Isa. 55:11).

Before we delve into the study of “The Two” (the end days’ apostles), let’s look at a bride whom our Lord had to divorce. In her was nothing a man would want in a wife. Let’s look at the anti-type of the Bride as seen in chapter three.