

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 8

The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven

INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"¹ has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 8** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook. You can also reach me via email, jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net, or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"² You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

Special thanks to Pastor Craig Booher for his inspiration in compiling quick reference Bible studies.

8TH MYSTERY: THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Revelation: Those who understand the kingdom's purpose, extent, and organization will give Christ dominion in their earthly lives and will rule with Christ in His future dominion.

Facts about the kingdom of God:

Mat. 13:11 the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are given to believers, but not given to unbelieving hearts

Rev. 11:15 the *kingdoms of this world* are not yet ruled by Christ, but will be; God's kingdom is now spiritual;

Luke 17:21 Jesus teaches *the kingdom of God is within you*; it's Christ's rule over your soul

Col. 1:13 when a person is born again, he is *translated...into the kingdom of his dear Son*

¹ Revelation 10:7

² 1 Peter 3:15

Mat. 4:8-9, 12:26 Jesus teaches Satan has a kingdom and has power to give earthly kingdoms to those he chooses

Rom. 8:37, 16:20, Eph. 6:12 as God's soldiers, Christians wrestle against Satan's kingdom and conquer as Jesus puts Satan under our feet

1 Thes. 2:12 *walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory*

#1—The Sower and the Four Grounds Parable:

Mat. 13:3-9, 18-23 men display four heart-reactions to hearing preaching about Jesus Christ

2 Tim. 2:20 four different kinds of vessels represent the four heart conditions: gold, silver, wood, and earth

Rev. 22:11 four heart conditions every person will end up in at Jesus' second coming: holy, righteous, filthy, and unjust.

#2—The Wheat and the Tares Parable:

Mat. 13:24-30, 36-43 Each person is either a child of God or Satan and the churches are full of both

Mat. 7:21-23 tares, or children of Satan who are lost, can honor and worship God enough to see the Holy Spirit supernaturally move in their services

2 Tim. 3:1-5 in last days, "tares" will love themselves more than God with only a form of godliness

#3—The Grain of Mustard Seed Parable:

Mat. 13:31-32 the false church started small but grew until it was large and filled with all demonic powers

Gen. 15:10-11, Mark 4:15, Rev. 18:2 tree is Roman Catholic Church; birds often symbolize unclean spirits

#4—The Parable of Leaven Hid in Three Measures of Meal:

Mat. 13:33 the false church hid lies in her teachings until her entire doctrine became fully corrupted

Mat. 16:11-12, 1 Cor. 5:1-8 leaven represents sin and false doctrine

Acts 2:38, 8:16, 19:5, 1 Tim. 3:16, 1 John 5:7 three measures are the false, three person god teaching of the Trinity, including the false baptism; God is never called three persons (He has three manifestations) and apostles always baptized in literal name of the Lord Jesus Christ

#5—The Parable of the Treasure Hid in a Field:

Mat. 13:44 a true believer joyfully trades all his possessions at the surprising opportunity to gain Christ

Joel 2:28-32, Acts 1:5, Acts 2:16-21, 2 Cor. 4:6-7, Jer. 31:33, Heb. 10:16-17, Eze. 36:26-27 the treasure is the baptism of the Holy Ghost in our bodies, or earthen vessels, found, or taught, in the field of the Bible

#6—The Parable of the One Pearl of Great Price:

Mat. 13:45-46 a true believer abandons his search for many spiritual truths in order to gain the one, most valuable truth—Christ

Mat. 6:7, 1 Tim. 2:9, Rev. 17:4, 18:12, 21:21 pearls always represent valuable, beautiful, and rare treasures in Scripture; Christianity has the greatest life-changing truths

Col. 1:26-27 the baptism of the Holy Ghost, or Christ in you, is the one pearl of great price, hidden from ages and generations

Acts 19:1-7 the Ephesians sold out the previous water baptism (from John the Baptist) in order to receive the current water baptism and then received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, or pearl of great price

Acts 9:17-18, Phil. 3:9-10 Paul sold out his his training in Judaism for Christianity, or Jesus' righteousness, the pearl of great price

#7—The Parable of the Net Cast Into the Sea:

Mat. 13:47-50 at the end of the world, the gospel will attract believers and unbelievers, but God's angels will separate the wicked away from the holy

Mat. 5:45, 7:21-23 the gospel attracts wicked people because they enjoy the blessings of the Holy Spirit but do not want to fully surrender to It

Ps. 16:20, Mat. 13:20, Mat.12:28-29, 43-45 sinners can temporarily experience God's blessings of joy and deliverance but then backslide and allow demons back into their minds and bodies

Mat. 24:24, Heb. 6:4-8 false Christs and false prophets are temporarily anointed with the genuine Holy Spirit but later manifest evil fruits

#8—The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant:

Mat.18:21-35 a person must forgive others if he expects God to forgive him

Mat. 6:14-15, Mark 11:25-26 Christ wants us to understand all sins committed against us by others pale in comparison to the sins we have committed against God Almighty

Mat. 6:12 *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;* the gift of forgiveness is daily received and daily given

Mat. 5:7 *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy*

Eph. 4:31-32, Heb. 12:5 put away all bitterness; be kind, tenderhearted

#9—The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard:

Mat. 20:1-6 eternal life is the reward God gives to all who labor in His kingdom

Isa. 45:21, Rom. 9:14 God is just; there is no unrighteousness with Him

Ps. 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD;* God determines how many years of service believers serve and rewards accordingly

#10—The Parable of the Wicked Husbandman:

Mat. 21:33-46 the kingdom was rejected by the Jews and then given to the Gentiles to bring forth fruit unto God

Luke 13:34 God often sought to correct and love Israel, but she refused

Ps. 118:22-23, Acts 4:11, Rom. 9:33, Eph. 2:20, 1 Pet. 2:7 Christ is the stone Israel rejected

Acts 28:28 *the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it*

#11—The Parable of the King's Son:

Mat. 22:1-14 believers respond to God's invitation for the rapture and are appropriately clothed in the wedding garment, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost

Rev. 19:9 the marriage represents the future marriage supper of the Lamb

Eph. 2:17 invitation goes to the highways, representing the Gentiles were were *afar off*

Acts 13: 46 the Jews judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life, just as the king called them *not worthy* of the wedding

Gen. 45:22, Acts 2:38 being gifted a change of raiment is a great honor; the Holy Ghost baptism is a gift, too

Luke 24:49 Jesus says the apostles will be endued, or clothed with Holy Ghost power

Rom. 13:14 Paul uses the garment imagery for the Holy Ghost: *put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*

Rev. 3:4 Jesus admonishes the Sardis church for their holy lifestyle, represented by clean garments: *Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy*

Col. 1:25, 1 John 5:13 *Christ in you* is eternal life, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost

#12—The Parable of the Ten Virgins:

Mat. 25:1-13 wise believers possess oil, or the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as they wait for Jesus' wedding, the rapture

2 Cor. 11:2-3 wise virgins represent chaste Christians who possess uncorrupted minds

Zec. 4:6 oil is the symbolic of the Holy Spirit, or baptism of the Holy Ghost

Eph. 4:23, 2 Tim. 1:7 foolish virgins can have the anointing of renewed or sound minds by virtue of being spiritual virgins, but lack the seal of the Holy Ghost in their souls

Mat. 13:22, Eph. 5:14-17 foolish virgins lack extra oil, or the seal of the Holy Ghost baptism due to foolishly wasting time with worldly cares

Mat. 25:9, Mat. 3:11, Rev. 3:18 wise virgins cannot give the Holy Ghost baptism to foolish virgins; Jesus alone baptizes believers with the Holy Ghost

#13—The Parable of the Talents:

Mat. 25:14-30 Christ commits varying amounts of talents and resources to His servants and rewards those who faithfully invest in them

Rom. 12:11, Eph. 5:16 Paul urges you to be fervent in business and redeem the time

1 Cor. 9:27 Paul's example teaches us the more gifted you are, the more self denial you must practice

Luke 12:48 Jesus says, more will be required of him who was given more

2 Pet. 3:18, John 15:4,7 the only way to grow in Christ is to abide in Him

2 Cor. 8:7, Phil. 1:9, 1 Thes. 3:12, 2 Pet. 1:5-8 Christians are to abound, or increase in everything

Mat. 25:25-26, Rev. 21:8 fearfully wasting God's talent is a wicked and slothful act

Acts 1:23-26, Rev. 3:11, 2 John 1:8 Christ will have one person finish a ministry another person forsakes, thereby receiving their heavenly rewards

#14—The Parable of the Pounds:

Luke 19:11-27 Christ provides an equal opportunity to His servants and rewards those who faithfully act upon it

Mat. 6:24, 10:22 many religious groups hate Jesus; even some who call themselves Christians hate Him because Jesus says you can only love one of two masters: Jesus and riches

Mat. 5:11-12, 6:4, 6, 18, 10:41, 25:34-40, Mark 9:41, Luke 6:27-33, 14:12-14 equal amount of pounds represents each person's equal opportunity to do simple acts of generosity and spiritual devotion

Luke 19:17, Rev. 2:26-27, 20:4-6 Christ's special reward for making the most of opportunities is ruling over cities in the Millennium

#15—The Parable of the Seed Cast Into the Ground:

Mark 4:26-29 God causes spiritual growth by invisible means but men observe it in three stages: blade (justification), ear (sanctification), and full corn (baptism of the Holy Ghost)

Luke 17:21, Col. 1:27 Jesus says the kingdom of God is within you; must be the baptism of the Holy Ghost

John 6:63, 1 Cor. 3:7-8 God's quickening Spirit only gives increase to men's souls

Job 33:15-16, Ps. 30:5 God's Spirit works even while men sleep

Ps. 1:3, 92:13, 1 Pet. 1:23 seeds represent Christians, likened unto growing trees

Acts 9:17-18 Paul *arose*, being saved, or justified, is like the first stage of wheat: the rising blade

John 17:12-19, 20:22, Acts 1:5, 2:4 Jesus' disciples had to be sanctified before being filled with the Holy Ghost, representing the second stage, the ear stage

Heb. 5:12-14, John 4:34 mature, born-again Christians, of full age (third stage of the wheat), like *the full corn in the ear* Jesus spoke of, discern good and evil and do God's will, finishing His work

#16—The Parable of the Great Supper:

Luke 14:15-24, Rev. 19:9 after most Jews made excuses to reject it, Gentiles should accept Jesus' compelling invitation to His great supper, the marriage supper of the Lamb

Mat. 10:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:17 those first invited to the great supper, who also make excuse not to attend represent the religious, upper class Jews (Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.)

Mat. 9:11-13 second group invited are lower class Jews who received Christ, like Matthew the tax collector and Mary Magdalene; this group honestly assessed their spiritually-sick condition and repented of their sins through God's mercy

Mark 16:15, Acts 2:39, Eph. 2:13 the third group, the highways and hedges, is the Gentiles
2 Cor. 11:2 Paul had godly jealousy for Christians to live as spiritual chaste virgins to Christ; this should inspire Christians to overcome all excuses and live fully devoted to Christ

Ps. 119:103, 1 Pet. 2:3, Rev. 10:8-11, 19:9 tasting God's gracious Words of truth now assures you'll taste of His food at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb