

The Mysterious Growth of God's Kingdom (Pt. 1)

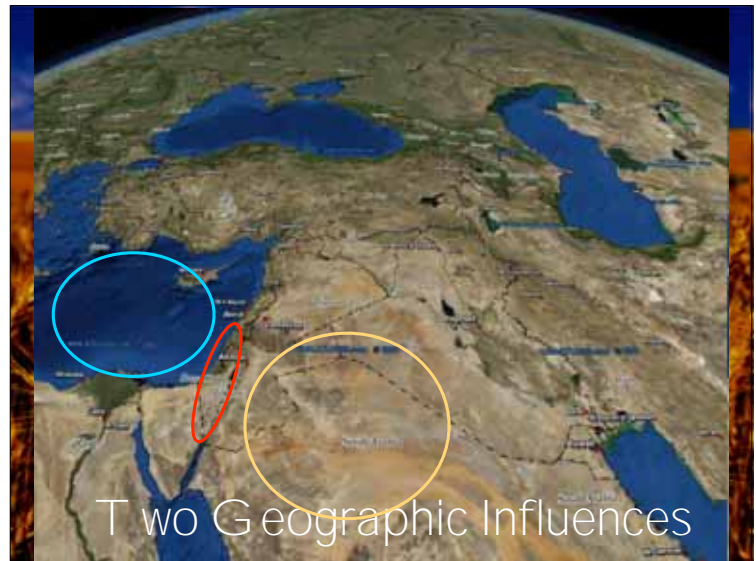


I. The Parable of the Growing Seed (26-29)



A. The Sower's Activity (26)

- 26 - "And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil."
- Two directions...
 - 1) A description of the entire sweep of redemptive history, from Jesus' 1st coming to His 2nd coming.
 - 2) A description of the growth of the seed



B. The Growth Mystery (27-28)

- 1) We can't understand how it grows.
 - 27 - "and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know."

B. The Growth Mystery (27-28)

- 2) We can't make it grow.
 - 28 - "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head."
 - Cf. Acts 12:10 - "When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him."
 - Cf. 1 Cor. 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."
 - John 3:1ff

B. The Growth Mystery (27-28)

- 3) It grows slowly, at times even imperceptibly.
 - 28 - "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head."
 - "First the blade" – the shoots of the plant that resemble grass.
 - "Then the head" – the immature head of the grain begins to appear.
 - "Then the mature grain in the head" – eventually

C. The Harvest's Certainty (29)

- 29 - "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Implications...

- 1) God alone is sovereign in salvation.
 - 1 Cor. 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."
- 2) Jesus' teaching in this parable compels every Christian to sow the seed.
 - Rom. 10:8-14
 - 1 Cor. 3:6 - "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth."

Implications...

- 3) The power of God is in the seed!
 - The seed of the gospel itself.
 - Rom. 1:16-17
 - 1 Cor. 1:18 - "the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
 - The seed of the Word of God.
 - 1 Th. 2:13 - "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it not as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."

Implications...

- 4) Sowing ensures a harvest.
 - Is. 55:10-11 - "as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it."
 - Acts 18:9-11