THE CHURCH IN PROPHECY

I. THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

1. The Sower: The Word of God will be sown like seed in the world.
2. Wheat and Tares: It will be imitated by a false counter-sowing producing unbelievers mixed with believers in the professing church.
3. Mustard Seed: The church will assume huge outward proportions
4. Leaven: The church will be marked by deep, inner corruption.
5. Treasure Hid: The Lord will gain for himself believers from Israel and from among the Gentiles
6. Pearl: The Lord will gain for himself believers from Israel and from among the Gentiles
7. Dragnet: The Age will end in a judgment where the unrighteous are excluded but the righteous are allowed to enter and enjoy the Kingdom

II. THE CHARACTER OF THIS AGE: Matthew 13 & Rev 2-3

A. The 7 Prophetic Parables of Matthew 13

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B. THE PROPHETIC VIEW OF THE 7 CHURCHES Rev 2-3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Ephesus</td>
<td>The Pure Church</td>
<td>Christianity moves from a Jewish sect to a Gentile faith</td>
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<td>10 Persecutions: Nero – Diocletian</td>
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<td>Pergamum</td>
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<td>Thyatira</td>
<td>The Corrupt Church</td>
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<td>700 – 1000 AD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sardis</td>
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<td>Medieval Church Loss of the Word and the gospel</td>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>The Reformation Church</td>
<td>Gospel Recovered/ Worldwide Missions</td>
<td>1500- Present</td>
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<td>Laodicea</td>
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Our Practical Take Away: