

Western Wisdom Bible Study

To aid those interested in a deeper understanding of the scriptures, we offer a correspondence course of 28 lessons compiled from Max Heindel's writings. These lessons reveal the basic harmony of religion and science, and offer logical explanations for many misunderstood basic doctrines of the Church. This Western Wisdom Bible Course is available on a freewill offering basis.

The Tares Among the Wheat

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From when then hath it tares?

He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

—Matthew 13:24-30

It is taught in the Western Wisdom Teachings that "Man is a threefold Spirit, possessing a mind by means of which he governs a threefold body, which he emanated from himself to gather experience. This threefold body he transmutes into a threefold soul, upon which he nourishes himself from impotence to omnipotence." Life after life, here on the Earth, each human being goes through the various activities and experiences provided for him as opportunities for learning the necessary lessons on the spiral ladder of progress or evolution.

Unfortunately, however, the Ego, or Higher Self, is not always in command, since the lower self, or personality has become very powerful in the great majority of mankind. Therefore, throughout each life there are what may be termed both "good" and "bad" responses to the situations of life, the freewill of each individual making it possible for him

to respond according to his own ability and desire. Thus the Ego, always acting wisely, sows "good seed," but when the Ego is not in command, "his enemy," the lower self, comes and sows "tares," or deeds contrary to God's laws. Day after day this goes on, both the "wheat" and the "tares" growing according to the food given them. The record of every deed performed is indelibly imprinted, by means of the breath, upon the ether of the vital body.

At the end of the Earth life, there comes the time of the "harvest." When the seed atom of the physical body in the apex of the heart is ruptured, the Ego spends approximately three and one-half days viewing a panorama of the life just passed. This panorama provides the basis for the experiences to come in the higher worlds.

First, there comes the purgatorial experience, during which the Ego suffers for all the evil he has done and is purged of his baser desires. (If he has repented, made restitution, and reformed, then he will not have to suffer, and will pass on more quickly.)

After the purgatorial experience is completed, the Ego proceeds into the First Heaven, "where the results of its sufferings are incorporated in the seed atom of the desire body, thus imparting to it the quality of right feeling." Then, as the "panorama of the past again unrolls itself backward...the good acts of life...are the basis of feeling."

Thus are the "tares" burned and the "wheat" gathered into our heavenly Father's "barn," the eternal part of the Spirit which is the real man. □