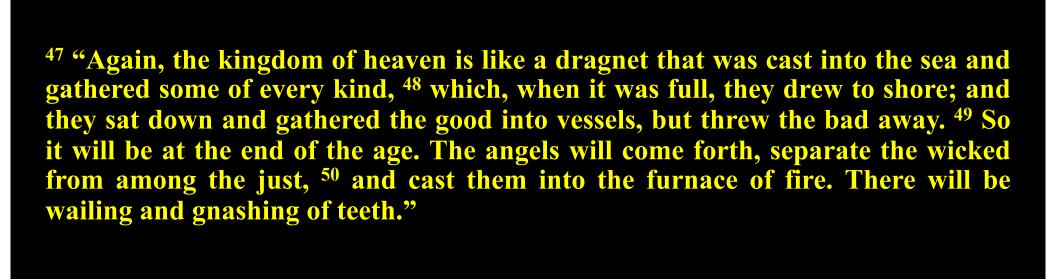
The Parable of the Dragnet (Matt. 13:47-50)

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The Point of the Parable

- Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
 - Jesus preached in parables to separate those who earnestly desire truth from those who do not (Mark 10:11-12; Matt. 13:12-15).
- This parable pictures:
 - A dragnet being cast into the sea, catching both good and bad vessels.
 - The good vessels were kept, but the bad vessels were thrown away.
- This parable is an illustration of the final judgment (Matt. 25:31-46).

The Dragnet

- The dragnet may represent the word of God and/or the church.
 - Like a dragnet, the word of God is what draws in people (Rom. 1:16); it also divides the good and bad vessels (Luke 12:51; Heb. 4:12; Acts 2:37).
 - The church bears responsibility for upholding God's word and bringing it to the world (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:11-12).
 - Like the dragnet, the church contains good and bad vessels (Rev. 3:1-4).
 - Some in the net will be cast away (Rev. 3:16).

The Separation

- There will be a great separation that occurs at the end of the ages, where the good vessels and bad vessels will be separated by angels (v.49-50; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- The wicked will be separated from "among" the just.
 - This may be referring to wicked Christians being revealed on the Last Day and receiving their recompense judgment (1 Tim. 5:24).
 - If so, this does not negate churches (and individual Christians) needing to make their own separations from wicked Christians while on earth (1 Cor. 5:11-13; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11; Rom 16.17; 1 Tim. 1:20; etc.).
- Both the righteous and the wicked will stand before the Lord in judgment (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; Rev. 22:12).
 - Those whose sins separate them from God (Isa. 59:1-2) will be separated from those whose sins have been covered by the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:6-11).

One group will be eternally punished while the other will be eternally rewarded. The choice is ours to make!