

FAITH

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Hartsville News Journal

Page 2B

FAITH COMMENTARY

Understanding Mark 13

As you are aware, Mark was not one of the disciples; he was just a nosy kid that followed in their shadows. With youth and vigor, it is easy to see why God chose him to write this chapter. He is very direct as he reports the facts on the coming of Christ.

Chapter 13 begins with Jesus gathered together with His disciples; He is telling them about things that will be taking place when He returns. To put it another way, He is describing

Satan's "five month" tribulation.

His disciples ask Him.... "What will it be like when you return?" He begins to answer in Mark 13:5 KJV, with His first warning:

"And Jesus answering them began to say, 'Take heed lest any man deceive you...'"

You must take heed in these end times. With Satan's workers already on the job, the



stage is being set for Satan, the deceiver.

Christ's response continues in Mark 13:8 KJV:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in diverse places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows."

Many nations now rise up against each other and earthquakes are becoming more frequent. Also, you may recall that Satan's tribulation is all

about trouble and Amos 8:11 KJV has previously warned you about the famine of the end times:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."

These words ring true today....So many are starving to hear with understanding.

Explaining the "beginning of sorrows" requires you to take

the word “sorrows” back to its original use in the manuscripts: odin, o-deen’; akin to Greek 3601 (odune); a pang or throe, especially of childbirth :- pain, sorrow, travail.

The “birth pangs” Christ is talking about refer to the new earth age that is about to be born; it comes to life when God rejuvenates the earth.

Christ also addresses famine. Mark 13:10 KJV tells you that He will not return until you have received the Truth of the Gospel:

“And the gospel must first be published among all nations.”

You now reach a point requiring your concentration. “Death” is one of Satan’s names. Christ, in Mark 13:12 KJV, tells you that Satan will use members of your own family to locate and deliver you to him:

“Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their

parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.”

With Satan being received as Christ, members of your family will betray you. Believing he is Jesus, they ask him to help you, to convert you. It is in this manner that you will be delivered to Satan (Death). Mark 13:13 KJV continues:

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

The vast majority are not accepting the truth of God’s Word. Being hated for bringing it forth is indicative of being hated for His Name’s sake and yes, for His Name’s sake, you will be saved.

Metaphors and figures of speech play a roll in this chapter. Christ, the Bridegroom expects you (His Bride) to be waiting for Him. Mark 13:17 KJV tells you that He expects a virgin upon His return:

“But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”

During his five months, Satan is dead set on removing your virginity. Christ, being gone for two thousand years returns and finds His bride with a baby suckling. With a baby suckling means that you gave up your virginity, you did not wait. It illustrates that you have received his mark. With his mark, you are doing his work; you are free to buy and sell.

Satan’s tribulation precedes the arrival of Christ and being harvested by him places your flight in winter; you are harvested out of season. Mark 13:18 warns of this:

“And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.”

When is the harvest? It is always in the summer. You avoid being harvested out of season by waiting for Christ.

Mark 13:21 KJV continues to warn you:

“And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not...”

Staying on your toes helps stop Satan, the instead of Christ, from convincing you that he is Christ. You see in Mark 13:22 KJV that you are Satan’s target:

“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even he elect.”

You are the only game in town; he already controls the others! Even now, you have false Christians (Christ man) paving the way for Satan and his fallen angels. Mark 13:23 KJV is where Christ tells you to take heed; He wants you prepared for battle:

“But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.”

You certainly are being told! While wrapping up this visit to Mark 13, Christ draws you a picture. Mark 13:24 KJV gives you Satan’s timing and His:

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light...”

Satan's "five month" tribulation ends with the appearance of Christ. He produces so much light that you will not be able to see the moon or the sun. The same brightness that makes them disappear also radiates in your life.

Do you see the chronological order of these events?

Pastor Billy Johnson can be reached by email at billy@lakeshorebible.info or viewed online at www.lakeshorebible.com