

DISCUSSION IDEAS

THE END PART 2

Mark 13

April 17th, 2016

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"As we study the end-time prophecies revealed by our Lord, we should realize that we are a generation privileged to see that some of these prophecies have already been fulfilled (e.g. worldwide conflict) and that current events are shaping up for the fulfillment of prophecies yet future.

"The bottom line is that as we study these prophecies we should realize this is not theory or make believe, but the very course of human history.

"We are living in the time of the birth pains.

Are we living for things eternal or temporal; are we living ready for Jesus' return at any moment?"

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: EVENTS THAT ARE NOT SIGNS OF THE END.**

We are told that there will be signs of the End Times, BUT what events might be confused for signs?

Look in Mark 13 at these verses:

- **False messiahs will arise throughout this age (Mark 13:5-6)**
What are Jesus words about these deceivers?
Are these the same as false teachers, or what will distinguish them?
- **Regional wars will be fought throughout this age (Mark 13:7)**
Discuss some regional wars we have seen.
- **Persecution of Jesus followers will occur throughout this age (Mark 13:9-13)**
What reports of this do we receive frequently?
Related to this, are you praying regularly for these believers?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: SIGNS OF THE END.**

What does Jesus point out as true signs that we are nearing the End? (Mark 13:8)

WW2 was actually a continuation of WW1. How do these wars differ from the past history of mankind?

Have you read of the war against Israel in Ezekiel 38-39?

That one is still in the future and we might get to see it happen.

[It is a very interesting study, if you wish to look into it. Many of the parts of that war are now in place, including Russia's economic dependence on natural gas, the Chechen issue blocking Russian sales, and Israel's huge resources of natural gas.]

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In verse 14, what sign is the specific marker indicating the last conflict?
How do we know that this passage was written for the Tribulation Saints, and that we will never experience that last terror?
Look at v. 19 to determine the historical context. Has there ever been such a time in the past?
Compare Daniel 12:1 with Mark 13:13.
What do 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9, and 4:13-18 tell us about our future?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WARNING.**

What warning is given to us, today, in Mark 13:32-37?

Verse 33 gives one part of the warning, but another command is repeated three times in this passage. Do you think God is putting emphasis on something?

What is it?

How do we put that into action? How do we obey this command?

In Matthew 28:19-20 we are given a related command. What command in verse 20 are we told to obey?

You say, "But I am not a teacher!" OK, then how can you take part in obeying this command?

What light does Ephesians 2:10 shed on how we obey?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

Regarding the video of the Jewish sacrifice worship:

Think about the horror of watching an innocent lamb being slaughtered.

Then think of the horror of the evil of our sins, and how that caused Jesus to give His life for us.

How much do we value His work for us?

What does Ephesians 2:10 tell us about God's intention for us?

Do we take that seriously?

How?

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♦ **PRAYER:**

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.

In what ways will my life influence them?

How significant are my prayers for them?

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. It is a VERY hot season right now.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Thank God for Seth, who insisted on sharing his testimony openly and in person (not videotaped), even though he is very shy.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.