



LESSON 135 – MARK 13: 5-8 (cont.)

MARK 13:5-8 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

1. What is the first thing that Jesus warned His disciples of?
2. The disciples asked what would be the sign of His second coming and the end of the world. List what signs Jesus gives as the beginning of sorrows, called birth pangs in the Greek.
3. Read Matt 24:7 and list additional signs. 4. How does Luke 21:11 qualify earthquakes and what does it add to the signs?
5. How would you qualify or categorize these signs?
6. How does Jesus say the believer should react to His prophecy and to the foretelling of these troubles to come on the earth?

Possible answers

1. Being deceived. How do we become deceived? By not knowing the truth. It's been said federal agents don't learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. We must study God's Word until we know the truth so well, we can't be deceived by someone's lies. This is also aided by the Holy Spirit giving us discernment along with a knowledge of God's truth.

In Matt 24:23-31, Jesus gives further information about those who would deceive, what they would say and what the real truth is. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. (Rev 19:17-21 for more on this supper of the fowls) Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. These few verses span at least 3 1/2 years of great tribulation on the earth, which will come after 3 1/2 years of lesser tribulation, and speak of the great war at Armageddon (Rev 19) and Christ's second coming to earth, this time to set up

the kingdom His followers expected in His first advent.

2. Wars occurring, rumors of threatened wars, nation rising against nation , kingdom against kingdom, earthquakes, famines and troubles.

3. Pestilences

4. As great earthquakes in different locations; fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

5. Political unrest and wars which affects stability of governments, their citizens, and their economies; natural disasters: shifts in the geological plates, which can cause tidal waves and other destructive events; drought, which affects crop production, animal husbandry, food availability, etc. "Troubles" could involve stock market downturns, all sorts of economic woes, etc.

6. Take heed to it, but don't let it trouble you. These things must come to pass. It is not the end of the world. Jesus must reign on the earth for a thousand years after this time of tribulation. 1 Cor 15:25-26, Rev 20:6 (If we read on in this passage and Rev 21:1, and 1 Cor 15:28, we find out what will happen after the 1000 year reign of Christ as King on the earth.) Remember the Word of God will be fulfilled about this subject and all others of which God has spoken.

The Lord told His disciples and us what would happen in the future because He wanted us to know and be prepared, but not scared. Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

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