



LESSON 139 - MARK 13:24—27

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

This section of the scripture lists a number of happenings in the celestial realm during the 7 year tribulation: the sun, moon and stars are affected, and more physical darkness comes over the Earth. The more people reject God and the knowledge of Him in their lives, the more darkness prevails in every aspect of their lives. This same principle happens in us, when we do things which affect our spiritual health, we usually will see a downgrade in our well-being in some other way, physically or emotionally. That is because our spirits are vitally important and connected to the welfare of our souls and bodies. This connection is spoken of in Proverbs 4:20-23: **My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.**

When will these natural events listed in Mark 13:24-27 begin? The world does not believe that Jesus is coming to this planet again--but He is. The demons know it. Mt 8:29:

And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

These events will occur in the time between the revelation of the antichrist and the return of Christ to the Earth to establish the kingdom of God. Remember the prayer Jesus gave His disciples in Mt 6:10, " Our Father,...Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus will fulfill that prayer. He will establish His kingdom on earth and then return it to His Father, that "God may be all in all." (1 Cor 15:23-28)

Are the day of Christ and the end of the world the same thing? No. There is a period of 1000 years between those two events. Read Rev 20:4-15 for information about the end of time. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 is very plain in listing the timing of the coming of Christ to Earth : **Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day (of Christ) will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

The passage in Mark 13 states that Jesus will return to Earth with great power and glory to destroy the kingdom of the antichrist. Rev 19:11-21 describes the scene, while Rev 1:7 relates that "...every eye shall see Him...and the kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him."

Obviously, there is much more that the Bible says about these and other "last days" events in the books of Daniel, Revelation, the gospels, and others, and, if we took the time to study all of those passages, we would never finish our Mark study. You might want to do a special study of this subject by trying to make a timeline, filling in what- happens- when, to get a better idea of the events in the last days, which started, according to Peter in Acts 2:16-21, at Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit and ends with the coming of the Lord to Earth.

" ... then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven." Angels have many job assignments. Review these scriptures and list the characteristics of angels and the different things holy angels might do. Gen 16:1-16, 21:9-21, 31:11-13, 32:1-2, 24-32, Heb 13:2, Ex 3:2 and Acts 7:30, Ex 33:1-2, Num 20:14-16, Num 22:22-35, Judges 2:1-4, 6:11-24, 13:1-25, 2 Sam 14:20, 24:10-17, 1 Kings 19:2-8, 2 Kings 1:1-4, 15, 19:31-35, Ps 34:7, 35:4-7, Isa 63:9, Dan. 3:28, 6:21-22, Mt 1:20, 2:13, 19, 28:2, 5, Lk 2:9, 13-15, John 5:4, Acts 5:19

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