

## Mark 13:5-8 - Looking Over the Horizon (pt 3.5) – Environmental

Intro – We are fond of forecasts because they help us prepare for the day. Series – LOTH where we are anticipating what might be headed our way (Matt. 16:3). We noted *Societal* trends last week and today we tackle *Environmental* changes we are forewarned about. The Bible gives us a weather forecast. Some climate changes we are to expect are: Ground shaking, Grass burning, Seas roaring, Wind stopping, Hail falling, Sun scorching, Moon blushing, Stars falling & Heavens quaking. (very noticeable happenings). As mankind's sin increases our world will react to our wickedness. The very Environment will begin to warn us. Our sin initially changed the environment (thorns). Our sin brings repercussions to nature. So today's message is like a future forecast. We are going to start with the ground and work our way up

### EARTHQUAKES

1. Mark 13:8      Jesus tells us the future so we won't be frightened      Mark 13:7
  - a. Forecasts help us prepare.      Good to prepare psychologically for earthquakes
  - b. Uneasy feeling when the ground moves.
2. Earthquakes in various places. - USGS – Alaska, Greece, Indonesia, Tonga, Hawaii, Chile, Japan, Russia, California, Fiji, China, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Pakistan, Texas, Dominican, Guam, Okla, Philippines, Peru, Taiwan, Columbia, Nevada, Iran, El Salvador, Idaho, Oregon, Argentina
  - a. USGS – increasing because of more monitoring. (exceed average every 3-4 yrs)
    - i. Increasing because Jesus said there would be earthquakes in various places
3. As sin increases so will earthquakes      Isaiah 24:19-20
  - a. Severe shaking of the earth. (Reeling like a drunkard – wobbly top on axis?)
  - b. "...its transgressions are heaven upon it..."
    - i. the weight of our sin fractures the ground we walk on
    - ii. the earth groans under our gross iniquity      (Rom. 8:21-22)
  - c. Jesus said that the earthquakes were just the beginning of birth pangs      (Mark 13:8)
    - i. The earth will start having contractions because of our corruptions. Increase intensity
  - d. Our sin pollutes the earth and the earth reacts with convulsions      (carnal footprint)
    - i. Isaiah 24:5 - (~~law~~) Num. 35:33-34-(bloodshed) Lev.18:24-28 (sexual sins/sick)
4. Specific earthquakes that are forecasts
  - a. Ezekiel 38:19-20 - a big one before a battle in Israel (Ethiopia, Persia/Iran, Russia?)
  - b. Rev. 6:12a,14      Rev. 11:13 – Jerusalem      Rev. 16:18 is the big one
  - c. God rises to shake His earth (Is. 2:19, 21).      God is so gracious to get our attention

### GRASS AND TREES

- Revelation 8:7      1/3 burned up      (well, there goes our landscaping effort ☺)
  - We are to be good stewards of the earth, not destroy the earth (Rev. 11:18c)

### SEAS AND WATER

1. Luke 21:25      (if the moon is affected then the seas will be affected)
  - a. The nations will be in perplexity about the roaring of the seas

2. Jer. 9:15 God promises to give poison water to a perverse people. Wormwood for the wicked
  - a. Rev. 8:8-11 speaks of 1/3 of sea water and 1/3 of fresh water being affected
    - i. Falling star/meteor/asteroid that makes the water bitter

### WIND AND HAIL

- WIND                      Rev. 7:1                      Imagine a time period with no wind in the forecast?
  - No breeze.                      No wind.                      No jet stream.                      No joke
  - An eerie silence and calm before the storm
- HAIL                      We know something about hail in Okla. (the recent storm is delaying our sod )
  - freak storm in Mexico – feet of hail that covered cars
- There is some hail forecast for the future
  - Rev. 8:7                      This freaky hail storm is reminiscent of the 7<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:18ff)
  - Rev. 11:19 -                      lightening, thunder, earthquake and a great hail storm – quite a combo
    - Job. 38:22-23                      God makes the weather and uses it for His purposes
  - Rev. 16:21                      100# hail stones will get your attention (sack of cement)
    - Men will blaspheme God.                      Just like in Egypt the storm will only harden

### SUN, MOON AND STARS

1. God made the sun/moon/stars a receptacles of light to govern day and night
  - a. God provides a nice *natural* consistency. Future forecast has the unusual/unnatural
2. Light will be increased or diminished                      (God has a dimmer switch...if you will)
  - a. Isaiah 13:10                      stars/constellation/sun/moon will be off “schedule”
  - b. Isaiah 30:26 -                      sun and moon 7 times brighter than normal on a special day
  - c. Zech. 14:6-7                      A unique day.                      No light in the day and light will come in evening
  - d. Rev. 8:12                      24 hour day interrupted by 1/3.                      Day and night altered in some way
  - e. Rev. 16:8-9                      heat of the sun turned up a bit...global warming will happen
  - f. “Nature” is how God naturally operates His world. He will alter its operation of light
3. There is forecast great signs and great shakings of the heavens
  - a. Isaiah 13:13                      the heavens will tremble
  - b. Isaiah 24:20                      if the earth tottering then the heaven will appear to be shaking
  - c. Haggai 2:6                      “...going to shake the heavens, the earth, the sea and the dry land.”
  - d. Luke 21:11, 25-26                      great signs from heaven                      powers of heaven will be shaken
  - e. Rev. 6:13                      Asteroids/meteors                      NASA tracts NEO                      (asteroid belt nearby?)
4. From earthquakes to spacequakes the future forecast wants us to be aware.                      LOTH
  - a. Be prepared not be perplexed.                      We are not to be afraid of the forecast
    - i. Mark 13:7 “...do not be frightened, these things must take place...”
  - b. God has the whole world in His hands.                      (The weather is His doing)
    - i. mother nature gets too much credit (idol)                      (forecaster saying “Jesus sent hail”)
  - c. God has us in His hands as well and we will be well protected there
5. God will shake up things (from how He naturally does things) to show us what can’t be shaken
  - a. Heb. 12:25-29                      God spoke on Sinai - lightening/thunder/shaking
  - b. God will speak again with: Ground shaking, Grass baking, Seas roaring, Wind stopping, Hail falling, Sun scorching, Moon blushing, Stars falling, Heavens quaking. We listening?