

“SIGNS OF THE TIME - DETERIORATION OR RESTORATION? Part IV” (Matt. 13)

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INTRO: Are bad things happening a sign of the times – a sign of Christ’s soon return (Isa. 9:7; Eph. 5:27; Acts 3:20-21)?

I. The Parable of the Mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32)

- A. The mustard seed starts out small but ends big!
- B. Kingdom impact increases significantly over time!

II. The Parable of the Leaven (Matt. 13:33).

- A. Leaven at first does its work hidden from the natural eye, but eventually greatly impacts what it touches.
- B. The kingdom eventually has great cultural impact!

III. The Parable of the Dragnet (Matt. 13:47-50).

- A. The net contained a mixture of good and bad fish.
- B. The good and bad fish were separated.
- C. The wicked and just will coexist until the harvest.
- D. At the end-of-the-age harvest, the wicked are separated from the just, not the other way around!
- E. The wicked and just are harvested at the same harvest!
- F. Would pro fishermen expect more bad or good fish?

QUESTIONS:

1. Where does the N.T. say the trib. is 7 years? Nowhere!
2. What does the Bible say about tribulation? People are likely to face times of tribulation regardless of when, where and how one lives (Jn. 16:33; Acts 14:22; 20:23; Rom. 5:3; 2Cor. 1:3-4; 1Thess. 3:4; etc.).
3. Does the Bible talk about a future tribulation? See Matt. 24:9, 21, 29; Mk. 13:19, 24; Rev. 1:9; 7:13-17.

MARK 13

1. Context: prophesy of the temple’s destruction (vv. 1-2).
2. Question: When will it happen? Signs its near? (vv. 3-4).
3. Signs of the temple destruction, not 2nd coming (vv. 5-13)!
4. Leave Judea (not the rapture!) (vv. 14-18; Lk. 21:20).
5. The temple destruction tribulation (vv. 19, 24; Matt. 24:9, 21).
6. **All** of these things would happen before that generation passed away (Mark 13:29-30; Matt. 24:34; Lk. 21:32).
7. John was already in “*the*” tribulation (Rev. 1:9; 7:14-15)!