Gospel of Mark - Chapter 13:9-13 Olivet Prophecy - Persecution

By Daniel Deininger - February 8, 2023

Tonight we'll look at the third item Jesus warned about: Persecution

Mark 13:9 NKJV - "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them.

1. Watch out - take heed!

Jeremiah 9:4 NKJV - "Everyone take heed to his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; For every brother will utterly supplant, And every neighbor will walk with slanderers.
Jeremiah 9:5 NKJV - Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity.
Jeremiah 9:6 NKJV - Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me," says the LORD.
…
Jeremiah 9:13 NKJV - And the LORD said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it,

2. Some to be beaten…

Revelation 2:10 NLT - Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

Acts 16:22 NLT - A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.
Acts 16:23 NLT - They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape.
Acts 16:24 NLT - So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.
Acts 16:25 NLT - Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

Positive results:

Acts 16:32 NLT - And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household.
Acts 16:33 NLT - Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized.
Acts 16:34 NLT - He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Paul's summary of persecution

2 Corinthians 11:23 NLT - Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again.

2 Corinthians 11:24 NLT - Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes.

2 Corinthians 11:25 NLT - Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.
2 Corinthians 11:26 NLT - I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not.
2 Corinthians 11:27 NLT - I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

3. “To them” or “against them”?

   Webster Bible = And ye will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony <u>against them</u> and the Gentiles.

   King Jamess = And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony <u>against them</u> and the Gentiles.

Watch Out!

Mark 13:9 NLT - "When these things begin to happen, watch out! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me.

Yes, it will be an opportunity… but as pointed out above, will it be as a witness ABOUT Jesus and the coming Kingdom of God,... or will it be a call to repentance.

Mark 1:15 NLT - "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! **Repent of your sins** and believe the Good News!"

Matthew 3:1 NLT - In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was,
Matthew 3:2 NLT - "**Repent of your sins and turn to God,** for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."
Matthew 3:3 NLT - The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!'"

Won't we also be preparing the way for Christ's return? .. His coming? Yes!

Isaiah 58:1 NKJV - "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins.

Isaiah 58:1 **NLT** - "Shout with the voice of a trumpet blast. Shout aloud! Don't be timid. Tell my people Israel of their sins!
Isaiah 58:2 NLT - Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and seem delighted to learn all about me. They act like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God. They ask me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near me.

Mark 13:10 NKJV - "And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

Matthew 24:13 NLT - But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
Matthew 24:14 NLT - And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

So, what will you say?

Be a witness?
Say what the gospel is about ie the soon coming Kingdom of God which Christ will soon set up?
Give a message of warning of what is to come due to our sins?

Don't worry!

Mark 13:11 NKJV - "But when they arrest you and deliver you up, **do not worry** beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Mark 13:12 NKJV - "Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

Jeremiah 12:6 NKJV - For even your brothers, the house of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you; Yes, they have called a multitude after you. Do not believe them, Even though they speak smooth words to you.

Matthew 10:16 NKJV - "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.
Matthew 10:17 NKJV - "But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.
Matthew 10:18 NKJV - "You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

Testimony = Same word as in Mark 13:9

Testimony = G3142 = μαρτύριον martýrion, mar-too'-ree-on; neuter of a presumed derivative of G3144; something evidential, i.e. (genitive case) evidence

given or (specially), the Decalogue (in the sacred Tabernacle):—to be testified, testimony, witness.

Matthew 10:19 NKJV - "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

Matthew 10:20 NKJV - "for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.
Matthew 10:21 NKJV - "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.
Matthew 10:22 NKJV - "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Enduring to the end

Mark 13:13 NKJV - "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 24:13 NLT - But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

SO, What is “the end”?

It will likely differ for different Christians:

1. Some will die before the end time persecution:

Isaiah 57:1 NLT - Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come.
Isaiah 57:2 NLT - For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.

2. Some will be taken to a place prepared by God in the wilderness.

Revelation 12:6 NLT - And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days.
…
Revelation 12:13 NLT - When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.
Revelation 12:14 NLT - But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time.
Revelation 12:15 NLT - Then the dragon tried to drown the woman with a flood of water that flowed from his mouth.
Revelation 12:16 NLT - But the earth helped her by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that gushed out from the mouth of the dragon.
Revelation 12:17 NLT - And the dragon was angry at the woman and declared war against the rest of her children--all who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony for Jesus.

3. Those not taken to the prepared place in the wilderness:

Revelation 3:14 NLT - "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen--the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation:
Revelation 3:15 NLT - "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!
Revelation 3:16 NLT - But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!
Revelation 3:17 NLT - You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.
Revelation 3:18 NLT - So I advise you to buy gold from me--gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.
Revelation 3:19 NLT - I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.