

FORECAST: MIXTURE OF SUN & SEVERE STORMS Filled Up and Poured Out – Part 23

Mark 13:1-37

March 3, 2013

1. **(Suffering) and (hardship) affect virtually every generation of Christians.**

When you hear about wars and threats of wars, don't be afraid. These things will have to happen first, but that isn't the end. Nations and kingdoms will go to war against each other. There will be earthquakes in many places, and people will starve to death. But this is just the beginning of troubles. Be on your guard! You will be taken to court and beaten with whips in their synagogues. And because of me, you will have to stand before rulers and kings to tell about your faith. – Mark 13:7-9 NLT

“...kill us, torture us, grind us to dust.... The oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.” – Tertullian to the Roman governor in 197 A.D.

2. **God's Spirit speaks clearly amid (harsh circumstances).**

But when you are arrested and stand trial, don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you to say at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit. – Mark 13:11 NLT

“Persecution is good for the Church. More persecution, more growth.... Send me back [to prison]!” – Samuel Lamb (Pastor of the largest house church in China today)

3. **A season of nearly unbearable suffering, called the (Great Tribulation), still lies ahead.**

In those days there will be greater suffering such as the world has never before seen and will never again see. If the Lord hadn't shortened that time, no one would be rescued. But for the sake of the chosen ones, the ones whom God chose, he has cut short the time. – Mark 13:19-20 CEB

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes.... Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” – Revelation 7:9, 13-14 NIV

4. **The Great Tribulation will conclude dramatically with (Jesus) returning to (reign) on earth.**

Then the Son of Man will be seen coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the earth. - Mark 13:26-27 CEV

5. **We are to be (alert) to the times and prepared for both great suffering and Jesus' (return).**

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.... But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.... If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!" - Mark 13:28-29, 32-33, 36-37 NIV