

6.9.C(51-52).House Tested-Prepared for Mashiach. Mark 13:1-8

As a shepherd of the House of Israel in these last days, it is critical that you shepherd your household in perilous and challenging times. So, in Mark 13:1-8, we see Jesus our Chief Shepherd guide his disciples in two important ways.

- Redirecting their Confidence and Awe: The disciples were clearly impressed with the human achievements of the Temple and its “wonderful buildings” (13:1). Imagine if the disciples continued this steady gaze on the Temple in 70 CE when not only was the Temple but all of Jerusalem was overturned!

Faith focuses on the Lord's Plan and Purpose as it unfolds in hardship and salvation.

The world and its “buildings” will be ever-changing, Jesus was teaching his disciples. But, as the Kingdom’s Sons on this Earth, they need to see by faith—What is God’s purpose in all this, and how do the *unnerving* unfolding events on earth show the unshakeable work of God’s Lordship? For, the disciple of the Kingdom must not be shaken nor discouraged when the earth shakes—instead, looking steadily ahead at how the calamitous events actually serve God’s heavenly purpose. Only then can the disciple walk by faith and not shaky fear!

- Preparing them for what is to come: As Jesus Mashiach predicts the coming of many counterfeits who will come in his “name” (13:5), he also warns them “See that no one leads you astray” (v.6).

In this same way, you should know what is to come but also guide your sheep that they know and be prepared.

Read Mark 13:1-8.

And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in **my name**, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ And when you hear of wars and **rumors** of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **earthquakes** in various places; there will be **famines**. These are but the beginning of the **birth pains**. Mark 13:5-8

Background:

Following the rapture of the Church, many Jews and Gentiles will come to Jesus Mashiach as their Lord and Savior. These are the First-fruits of the

global harvest that is to come. So, the Jewish Remnant and the disciples all over the world who turn to the Lord Jesus, these words are given to show them what happens next. For, following the Taking of the Church, many who have had the Word of God planted in their hearts may very well bear fruit and turn to the Lord.

If you are a Shepherd of this remnant or have a household of faith in some faroff land, consider the ways that Jesus prepares his own disciples for what is to come:

Preparing the Remnant during the Birth pains:

When Jesus Mashiach peers into the future, he knows that his people must be prepared for what is to come. For, he is neither a nihilist—imagining that conditions could neither improve nor worsen the situation. Rather, he is the Lord, who is committed to not only preparing his disciples for what is to come, but also training that when the

time does come, they can still have the strength of faith to bring the Kingdom even in adversity.

- Prepare for Test: Led astray by Falsehood

So, the first thing Jesus does is to give them the sequence of events that will take hold of the earth in the last days. After the rapture, what happens immediately is a proliferation of false Christs who come and say, “I am he!” (Mark 13:5). This is understandable, since the Church had been preaching the return of Jesus and the rapture.

But, amidst this confusion, Jesus warns the remnant and his last days disciples to “see that no one leads you astray” (5). He prepares the remnant to guard against falsehood by:

- **Remaining Watchful:** “see” and be observant of what false Christs seek to do.
- **Discern Leaders and Influence:** though disciples of Jesus will be looking for the shepherds who can lead them ahead, Jesus cautions them to be very discerning of *how*

they are being led. They should not be quick to give others authority in their lives. Rather, they should test anything they listen to, watch, or read.

- **Stay on the Path:** Hold closely to the Words of Jesus and the protection of your household. Be sure you know what is the Path set by the Word of God for yourself and your people, so that you can discern any divergence from the path.
- Strengthen Faith: Don't be alarmed.
Then, by saying, "Don't be alarmed," Jesus already shows them that they need not be "alarmed" by what is going on all around them.
To be "alarmed" is to lose hope in God's ability to overturn the evil course of events unfolding before their eyes. But, Jesus knows and promises them that these events

will soon pass until Jesus Himself comes to restore

- Know Purpose;

To know what God knows of the situation and how he will use it to advance his Kingdom may not completely comfort those whose world is being shaken, but it teaches of the Lord's faithfulness as his people pass through trials. Though it may look like the world is ending, Jesus assures the last days saints the "end is not yet" but that is the "beginning of birth pains" (8).

In other words, in the midst of the financial pain, the warfare, the pestilence and shortages, these "pains" are for a purpose.

In fact, as they faithfully spread the Word of God and the name of Jesus throughout the world, offering the Lordship of Jesus as the only refuge in this tribulation, they are

planting the Seeds which will produce a world-wide harvest! And, as you, the Remnant, plant the Word of God and spread the name of Jesus Mashiach in Israel, you prepare Israel for the “birth” of Israel as a nation, as the spiritually reborn sons of God!

Now, you may not see immediate results as you testify of Jesus Mashiach to the Jews. Remember:

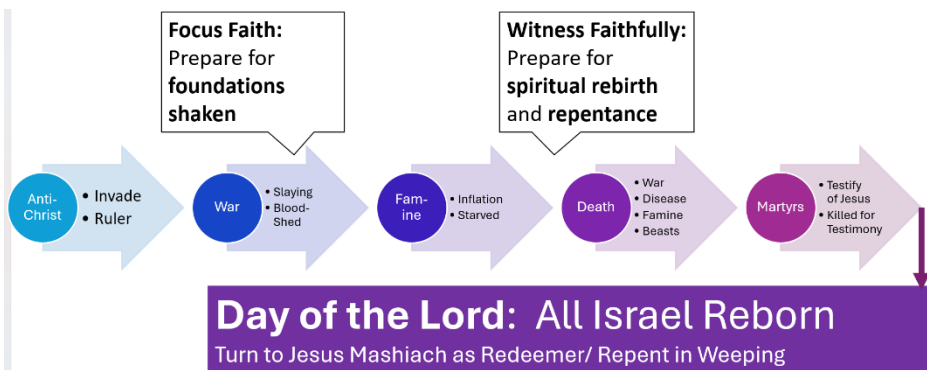
- Preach Jesus as the Mashiach, the one prophesied by the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms! Take back control of how Jesus is known—not through a *foreign Christology*, stripping Mashiach of his nature as David’s promised Kinsman-Redeemer, *raised up as Seed* according to the right of geullah to be the Son of David and the Son of God. Preach him as the fulfillment of God’s promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. For, from this point forward, the world should know Jesus as

Mashiach, the Jewish Messiah. Once the Church Age is forgotten, so should its terminology which voided the Word of God by its sophistic but lifeless abstractions.

- Preach the pure truth to the most entrenched positions of unbelief: that Elohim is a oneness of Father, Son, an Spirit; that Jesus was to be *raised up as Seed* according to the right of geullah to be the son of two fathers, that Mashiach was to be cut off to “atone for iniquity” and to “bring an everlasting righteousness” (Daniel 9 :24). For, as you plant this Seed, Jewish Minds will cling to these truths as Israel’s enemies surround and threaten annihilation. And, they will remember “the One they have pierced” and recognize him as their “Firstborn Son” when they see Jesus Mashiach face-to-face (Zechariah 12:10)

because you have already preached the
“Pierced One to them.

Birthpains Test House before Rebirth:



As the remnant, be sure to do two things during the birth pains: first, be sure your faith is focused on the Lord Jesus and his unfolding purpose and not the shaken foundations of the world; second, witness faithfully to prepare Israel and the world for a global harvest of faith!

Focus:

6C(51-52). Israel's Future Birth Pains: Kingdom

Established in Israel. 13:1-8

- 1) Passing World: Disciples must know Kingdom's coming. 13:1-4
- 2) Preparatory Pains: Ready Israel for faith in Mashiach and his coming: 13:5-7
- 3) Pains lead to Israel's Rebirth: All Israel will turn to Jesus Mashiach for life. 13:8

Consider:

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Question:

Further Discovery: