

The Darkest Hour

Revelation 13; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 9-25-2022

Gospel Foundations

God is the Supreme Good who is perfect life and light and love and has created us to be holy and happy in His love.

Man is an idol worshiper who is made in the image of God and is under His wrath and has filled the world with evil and suffering.

Jesus is the double cure who lived and died on a cross and rose as Lord of all and as an able and willing Savior for sinners.

Faith is trust in the promises that rests in Jesus for God's full and lasting love and hopes in God for help and happiness.

Love is the obedience of faith in God's promises and commands that is pleased with God above all and lives to please God above all.

The Setting

This vision is a continuation of the story in Revelation 12 in which the defeat of Satan through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus results in a cosmic battle that is played out on earth in which the devil, a defeated foe, is doing all he can to deceive and destroy before his time is up.

This vision is about the dark hour that will precede the return of Christ to consummate His kingdom on earth.

This vision is to encourage the Church of Jesus Christ not to despair in tribulation and to believe that, though it looks like we are losing, we are actually winning.

This vision is to encourage the Church of Jesus Christ to persevere and to continue bearing testimony to Jesus no matter how dark it gets.

1. The Dragon, the Beast from the Sea, the Beast from the Earth, the Saints and the Lamb

The dragon is the devil. (1) – Revelation 12:9, 17; 20:2; Genesis 3:15; John 8:44

The Beast from the Sea is the Antichrist foreshadowed in the 1st century by the Roman Empire and Nero. (1) – 1 John 2:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Daniel 7:1-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

The Beast from the Earth is the False Prophet foreshadowed by the 1st century imperial cult. (11) - Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

The Saints are believers in Jesus. (7) – Revelation 14:12

The Lamb is the Lord Jesus Christ. (8) – Revelation 5:6-9; 17:14

There is a devil in the details. The devil (the father of murder and lies) is behind oppressive pagan governments and deceptive false religions and behind the world system in general. – 1 Peter 5:6-11; 1 John 5:18-19

2. The Wound, Rule, War, Worship, Great Signs, Mark and 42 Months

Satan will mimic the death and resurrection of Jesus with a fatal wound and resurrection. (3, 12, 14)

The Antichrist will rule the entire world. (2, 3, 7)

The Antichrist will seek to extinguish all believers. (5-7) – Matthew 24:9-14

The world will worship the Antichrist. (4, 8, 12, 14, 15)

The False Prophet will perform great, lying wonders. (13-15) – Matthew 24:24-28

Every person will be pressured to make a visible pledge of loyalty to the Antichrist in order to survive. (16-18)

This period of intense and violent darkness will be temporary and relatively brief. (5) – Matthew 24:22

It will get significantly worse before it gets infinitely better. The end of all things will be a dark time: there will be a one world government, an all-out war on the saints, the worship of a man who claims to be god, and a clear indicator of those who follow Satan. - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

3. Heaven Dwellers, Overcomers Overcome, Names in the Book, and the Perseverance and Faith of the Saints

Believers are heaven dwellers or citizens of heaven indwelt by God. (6) - Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16

Believers are overcomers who are overcome. (7) – Revelation 3:21; 12:11

Believers have their names written in the Book of Life of the Lamb before, during and after all is said and done. (8) – Revelation 17:8; 21:27

Believers are strengthened to persevere in trust and love. (10) – Luke 8:15; James 1:12; Revelation 1:9

Believers trust in the sovereign goodness of God. (10) – Romans 8:28

The saints will go marching in. The saints will endure every trial and temptation and not be deceived or destroyed by the efforts of the enemy of their souls. – Romans 8:31-39

Conclusion

God is good when the world is dark.

Man is always looking for someone or something to worship.

Jesus saves those Satan and the world hates.

Faith and love are to be exercised in the dark.

– Luke 18:1-8; Matthew 24:9-14; 2 Peter 1:19; Philippians 2:15