

Title: THE GOD SIDE OF HISTORY, MARK 13:1 – 8
(Chatham, NJ; 11/15/15, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: Those who like to talk about being on the right side of history most often ignore God's side of history: salvation history as climaxed in the cross of Christ and the Day of Judgment to come.

Purpose: To encourage my audience to think more about history as God describes it and where the destiny of this planet is headed.

Introduction:

1. History is in the hands of Christ: in Revelation 5 the Lamb is worthy to open the scrolls.
2. The flow of history is headed to a restoration and renewal of all things, Rom.8:20-24a.
3. Revelation 21:5 reflects the same dynamic.
4. A Day of Judgment will set all things right and begin anew, John 5:28-29, 2 Pet. 3:10-13.
5. God's history is a single drama played out in every nation, Acts 17:26-27
6. In Mark 13 Christ previews some of the changes that history holds, and he challenges the disciples' beliefs about the future. (Discuss)
7. For quite a long time Marxist philosophers have arrogantly proposed that their way of life in the inevitable flow of history.
8. When you hear people today suggest that people, especially us backwards Christians, get on the right side of history, they are echoing that false assertion.
9. It is usually meant to intimidate those who disagree or to make them feel like they will be left out.
10. Do not listen to them; they can no more tell us the future than flipping a coin can.
11. The God side of history is the only right one.
12. There are numerous camps when it comes to history as God reveals it.

I. The Rebel Side

- A. If not Marxism, something else
 1. The rebel side usually insists that it is the right side
 2. When people accuse you of being on the wrong side, it is usually because they see current trends and insist they will last
 3. Often their insistence is accompanied by rhetoric that sounds appealing: justice, fairness, tolerance, freedom, etc.
- B. No place for God
 1. Was it a surprise to anyone that at the 2012 Democratic National Convention the delegates sought to expunge any mention of God from their platform?
 2. Psalm 2 addresses those nations and peoples who assume they can skirt God's plan for the Kingdom
 3. 1-3: they set themselves against God
 4. 4-6: God laughs; nothing will deter him
 5. 10-12, he warns the nations
 6. These are people who prefer history without God.
 7. The old Soviet Union was honest about getting God out being atheists
 8. And where is the Soviet Union today?
 9. The rebel side, the one that ignores God, is the wrong side

II. The Runaway Side

- A. They agree with God somewhat, but just aren't ready to get in the flow
 1. There are a number of sub-groups here
 2. Maybe they don't disagree with God but won't make the commitment to it

3. Maybe they want to agree but some unknown thing (emotional trauma, doubts, etc.) is holding them back
4. Maybe they've been brought up learning about God, but they have fallen away from it
5. Maybe they are just too busy to join in
6. Without trying they are sort of running away from the Kingdom; a non-decision is still a decision

B. God's slow process: a blessing in disguise

1. In 2 Peter 3:4 some people got tired of waiting for God's history to unfold
2. Yet Peter defends the waiting and slowness as a reflection of God's patience, 9
3. Mike Adams is a criminology professor at UNC Wilmington and a former atheist turned Christian
4. He interviewed a prisoner who believed John 3:16, and it started him thinking
5. He was also challenged on his pro-choice views by someone, and he called it the "stone in his shoe"
6. After a long time thinking about it, he stopped running away and got on the right side of history

III. The Right Side

- Those who still believe that when we die, we must stand before the judgment seat of God, Hebrews 9:27
- Those saved from a corrupt generation, Acts 2:40
- Those whose most important goal is the salvation of their souls, 1 Peter 1:9
- Those who believe they will meet with Christ when he returns, 1 Thess. 4:17

Conclusion:

1. The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ were the definitive acts of salvation history.
2. The climax of history will occur when he returns to take the righteous to be with him and will reject the unrighteous.
3. Being faithful to the Gospel of Christ is the right side of history.
4. You don't want to miss out, do you?
5. What can we do to help you along the way to belief and commitment to God's history?
6. Offer an invitation.