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"I Have Told You Everything in Advance"



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #137

In Mark 13:23, right in the middle of Jesus' message about the future, He tells us, *"But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance"* (NAS). This is one of the most motivating prophecy verses I know, a verse to stir us to study the subject of prophecy, and find out what Jesus wants us to know. To help you understand this verse, here are some other translations: *"Be on your guard; I have told you all things beforehand"* (ESV). *"Take ye heed; behold I have foretold you all things"* (KJV). *"So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time"* (NIV). *"See! I have told you about these things before they happen"* (NLV). *"But take heed; I have told you all things beforehand"* (RSV). And here's the parallel verse from Matthew 24:25, *"Behold, I have told you in advance"* (NAS).

Let me walk you through Mark 13:23, using the NAS version as our text: * ***"But take heed…"*** Jesus wants us to sit up and take notice of what He's going to say, to see the importance of His next statement. Jesus is

telling us to listen up, to pay attention, and realize that He has told us all the things we need to know about the years leading up to His return and the rapture of the church.

* ***"behold, I…"*** Jesus is speaking to His disciples, and to us too. And if it's Jesus talking, then it's God talking, which means it's God's word, what God Himself has to say to us. Might we listen to Him, knowing that what He has to say is far more important and necessary than anything man can say to us. Lots of people share their thoughts on prophecy, and what they believe to be true, but what Jesus says, what God says, is eternally true and vitally relevant for each one of our lives.

* ***"have told…"*** Jesus said this, not just a few decades or a few centuries ago, but close to 2000 years ago. The fact that it was spoken before the church age even began means it's for Christians living during this entire church age. Since the Jews are now back in their land, we know we are living in the end-times, which means that what Jesus told us is now more critical for Christians to understand than at any other time in history.

* ***"you…"*** Yes, Jesus is talking to His disciples, but we are His disciples too, and so He is talking to us. The *"you"* in this verse is plural, which means this is for the entire church, not just for pastors, and not just for some Christians. All believers need to know and believe what Jesus is telling us about the future. Because it is for all Christians, then it is for you individually. Therefore, you need to personally take heed to what Jesus said, especially in these years leading up to the end of this age and the coming of Christ.

* ***"everything…"*** Has God really told you everything about the future, and everything there is to know about prophecy? Of course not. Otherwise, you would be God, for only God knows everything. When Jesus says He has told you everything, it means He has told you all things He wants you to know about the future. It's this part of the verse that fires me up, that inspires me to study prophecy like nothing else in the world. If Jesus has told me everything He wants me to know about the future, then I want to know everything He wants me to know**. Let**

me say that again: if Jesus has told me everything He wants me to know about the future, then I want to know everything He wants me to know. How about you? Don't you want to know? Doesn't this verse motivate you to study God's prophetic word, and learn everything Jesus wants you to know about the end-times and His return to earth?

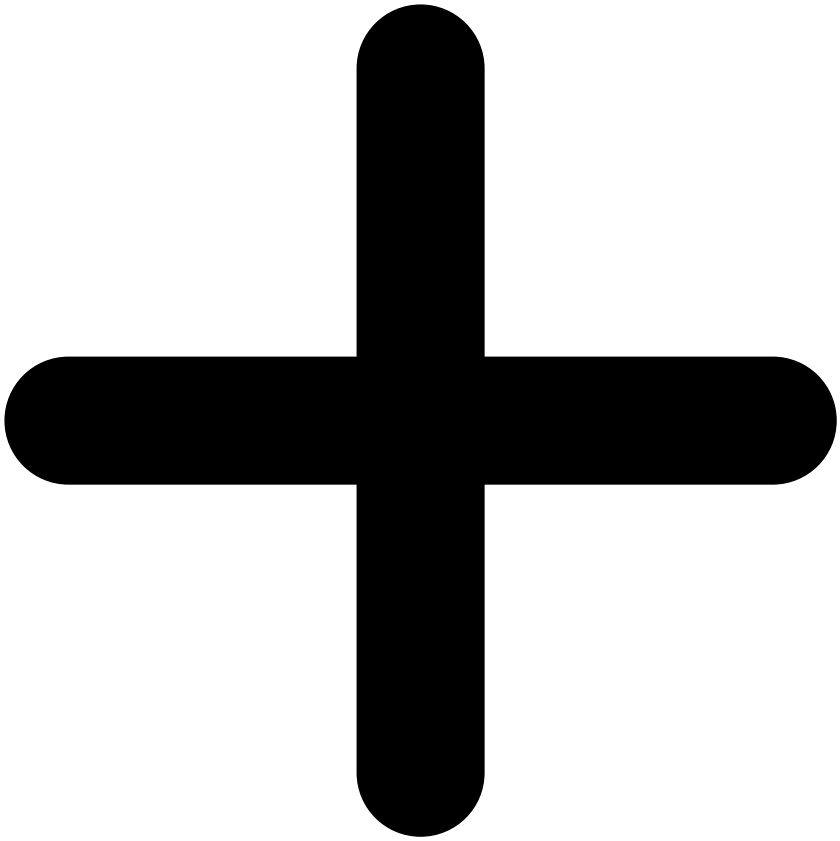
* ***"in advance."*** When you look at the original Greek, you see that the verb in this verse is most accurately translated as *"have foretold,"* which means Jesus told us what was going to happen in advance, beforehand, before it happens. Jesus wants us to know ahead of time what will be happening in the future. Now He didn't have to tell us anything, He could have left us completely in the dark, or He could have told us just a few things. But He told us quite a bit about the future, all things we need to know, and He told us way in advance. God loves us so much, and wants us, His children, and Jesus' bride, to not be afraid of or be surprised by the future, but to know from Him what will surely be taking place.

Now when Jesus says *"everything"*, what specifically does He mean? Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, 1-2 Thessalonians and Revelation, describe in detail what will be taking place before Christ's coming. In Mark 13 alone, we read about false Christs, false prophets, wars, earthquakes, famines, persecution, the Jews, abomination of desolation, tribulation, betrayal, preaching the gospel, signs in the heavens, Christ's coming, and the gathering of the saints. Then in Mark 13:30, a companion verse to Mark 13:23, Jesus says, *"Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until* ***all these things*** *take place"*, confirming that ***"everything"*** Jesus predicted will come to pass.

How loving and wise of Jesus to tell us ahead of time what will be occurring in the future. He really wants you to know what will be taking place on this earth before His return. Might you be thankful to Him, and love Him all the more. While you serve Him on earth, be looking and longing for that time when He will take you from here to heaven so you

can be with Him forever. Might we all say, *“Come, Lord Jesus.”*

P.S. I hope and pray you are excited about studying prophecy passages so you can have strong convictions on this subject, and so you can clearly tell others God’s plans for the future. Relating to this post, here is another good post – “Bible Prophecy Enables Us to See the Future” and this important article, “Matthew 24 – The Most Important Prophecy Chapter in the Bible.”



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