February 5, 2017 (Week 18) **Divisions and Principles**

The Studies of the Book of Daniel and the Gospel of Mark

"Parables: Ordinary Stories With Extraordinary Meanings"

Mark 4:1-34

Division 1: The Secrets of the Kingdom and the Parables of the Lamp and Measures.

Mark 4:10-12, 4:21-25

(Additional passages: Isaiah 6:9; Mark 7:29; Romans 9:33; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; Exodus 14:20; Isaiah 6:11-13; John 9:5; 1 Corinthians 1:28)

Principle #1*: Comprehending Jesus teaching is dependent upon a desire to know him, which results in God revealing truth and understanding, but indifference or hostility results in a deepening of disinterest known as hardening of the heart.*

Division 2: The Parable of the Sower.

Mark 4:1-9, 4:13-20

(Additional Passage: Mark 3:22; 1 Corinthians 1:19-25)

Principle #2*: The Gospel is like seed sown by God who offers it liberally to every human or type of soil. Though evil does not disappear at Christ's coming and many will reject the Gospel, it is not wasted, because God expects and will bring a harvest from those who respond by seeking salvation.*

Division 3: The Seed Parables.
Mark 4:26-34

(Additional Passage: James 5:7-8; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

Principle #3*: Because our eyes have been opened by the Holy Spirit, we, through our witness, are able to sow the seeds of the Kingdom. As fellow workers with Jesus we must do so faithfully anticipating with patience the harvest which God alone can produce.*

(for additional notes)