

The Last Days

- There are a lot of people who have made the comment that we are living in the last days as though they had some sort of special revelation from God. But the Bible is clear on this subject and I would like to show what “the last days” really means and if in fact we are living in them.

Eden

Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.

- Thus the foundation of the world in its entire perfectness. It was a time of purity. But this paradise was not to last. God had “*allowed maximum freedom and only one indulgence*”. Only “*one prohibition was necessary for the moral test of man*”. “*Would he center his existence on God, or on himself?*” (The Eternal Purpose and Plan of God by Larry Deason with Bill Bean)

After the fall of man God spoke to the serpent saying...

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (*He*) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

“Not only did God foreknow the entire gamut of history, including the fall, He had already formulated a plan to checkmate Satan’s deadly strategy before the game pieces were on the board”.

- His own Son would later expose those who were to be the offspring of the serpent who was actually Satan according to Rev 20:2 “...the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil...”.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer **from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a (*the*) lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (*Emp. Added*)

“Satan has no legitimate children. They are all stolen from God. Beneath the Satanic brand mark, the Devil’s children still bear the Divine image.”

- All are born as children of God but somewhere along the way man, like Adam, has the tendency to fall. Alas, Adam’s choice was to serve self (*and thus, Satan*).

Gen 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

- Adam and Eve were not prepared for the consequence of sin in their disobedience.

Adam and Eve thus enjoyed their **last days** in the garden of Eden.

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Anti-deluvian period (*from the creation week until the flood*)

anti- [Gk. *anti* against] **del-uge** (del'yooj) **n.** [*dis-*, off + *lavere*, to wash]

- Breaking this word down then would mean that the age in existence before the flood of Noah's day was the age before God "washed off" the world.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

- Before God would cleanse the world of the decadence that overwhelmed it, man would live that long while Noah was preparing the ark. It was within that period that man was given the opportunity to repent and believe Noah concerning the coming flood.

Gen 6:9 These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Gen 7:17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

Gen 8:14 And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried. 15 And God spake unto Noah, saying, 16 Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

- Noah and his family **were** prepared for the consequence of sin **in their obedience**.

Noah and his family had experienced the **last days** of the earth before the flood.

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The Mosaic Age

(*Patriarchal, Mosaic and Christian ages*)

Mat 24:1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to *Him* for to shew Him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, **when shall these things be?** and **what shall be the sign of Thy coming,** and **of the end of the world?** (*Emp. Added*)

Mat 24:14 And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the (*then known*) world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end (*of the Mosaic dispensation*) come.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the **elect**'s sake those days shall be shortened. (*Emp. Added*)

1Pe 1:2 **Elect** according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (*Emp. Added*)

Eph 1:4 According as He hath chosen **us in Him before** the foundation of the world (*before the creation, in eternity, God planned to save only those who were obedient to His will*), that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: 5 Having **predestinated us** unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself (*only those He adopts through His Son's sacrifice*), according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted **in** the Beloved. 7 **In Whom we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 8 Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having **made known** unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath **purposed** in Himself: 10 That in the **dispensation of the fulness of times** He might gather together in one all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in Him: 11 In Whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated according to the purpose** of Him Who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

- And His blood was so powerful that it not only cleanses the sins of the obedient since the cross, but also of those of the upright like Abel who “obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” (*Heb 11:4*)

Zec 14:8 And it shall be in that day, *that* living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

- So it wasn't possible that “the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins” (*Heb 10:4*) since only a pure sacrifice could do that. This is the passage that tells of how their obedience, the Jews under the Old Covenant, could receive remission of sins. Jesus went on to say that the end of the Mosaic dispensation would come once the message of the Gospel was spread to the then known world.

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

- In the mean time Jesus taught His followers (*who were of the Jews at the time*) to pray for the coming kingdom so that God's will would be done on earth as it was (*and is*) in Heaven.

Luk 11:2 And He said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. **Thy kingdom** come. Thy will be done, **as in Heaven, so in earth.** (*Emp. Added*)

- At that time righteousness was scarce to non-existent for man through the Mosaic age (*which pertained to the Jews*) or patriarchal age (*which pertained to the rest of the world*). Through the kingdom (*Christ's church*) that came to earth on the day of Pentecost (*Act 2:1-4*) it was possible for man to become righteous, only in Christ. But Christ first had to be sacrificed.

Mar 15:13 And they cried out again, Crucify Him. 14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath He done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify Him.

“You and I, by our personal contribution to the world’s unbelief, hatred, self-centeredness and wickedness, have called for the death of the Righteous One.”

- Maybe we weren’t part of that unruly mob but our sins cry out “crucify Him, crucify Him!”.

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption **for us**.

- Even Saul (*later Paul*) thought he was pleasing God in persecuting the church.

“In spite of his claim to know the true and living God, the man who believed he could be his own savior by religious observances and good works was just as deceived as the ignorant pagan who bowed down to the work of his own hands.”

Gal 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14 And **profited in the Jews' religion** above many my equals in mine own nation, being more **exceedingly zealous** of the **traditions** of my fathers. (*Emp. Added*)

- A New Covenant was necessary because animal blood was never meant to take away sin.

Heb 8:13 In that He saith, A new *covenant*, He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away. (*And it did so in 70 AD*)

Rom 7:13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin **by the commandment** might become exceeding sinful. (*Emp. Added*)

- Thus the Mosaic law once and for all fulfilled its purpose in showing the consequence of sin.

The Jews experienced the **last days** of the Mosaic age.

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Christians

- *“The true and living God purposed redemption for mankind in eternity.” “God, being Who and What He is, was able, not only to purpose His plan of redemption, but to successfully work out His predetermined plan.”*

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in **these last days** (*either at the end of the Mosaic age or at the start of the Christian dispensation*) spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds; (*Emp. Added*)

The very last days.

Mar 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away. 32 But of that day and *that hour (when the physical elements will be destroyed)* knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

- How can anyone know the day when Christ will return when Jesus Himself did not know?

Deu 18:22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

1Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up (*prepare*) the loins (*procreative power*) of your mind, be sober, and **hope to the end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (*Emp. Added*)

- We are to be prepared just as Noah was.

1Pe 3:20 ...when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (*Our consciences could never be clear to stand before God in the day of judgment were it not for Christ's atoning sacrifice, burial and resurrection and our obedience to it.*)

- As Christians we are to look forward to the day that will end the **last days**.

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Are you ready for the vapor to clear? You can be.

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that **believe** (*Gk.4100-entrust one's spiritual well being to Christ*) on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know** that **ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. (*Emp. Added*)

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

#1.Have you heard?

#2.Do you believe?

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on Him **in Whom they have not believed?** and how shall they believe in Him **of Whom they have not heard?** and how shall they hear without a preacher?

#3. Have you repented?

Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

#4. Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?

Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Joh 15:10 If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.

#7. Are you growing?

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, Who is the Head, *even* Christ:

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