

"THE LAST OR LATTER DAYS"

TEXTS: FOR "LAST DAYS"

1. **GENESIS 49:1**- Jacob tells his sons what will befall them in the "last days."
2. **DANIEL 2:28**- Daniel says that King Nebudchadnezer's dream was foretelling events of the "Last Days".
3. **ISAIAH 2:2**- "*It shall come to pass in the latter days... .*"
4. **ACTS 2:16-17**, Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32 where the prophet refers to the "last days" and Peter says that this is what was occurring then and there!
5. **2TIMOTHY 3:1** - Paul warns that in the "last days" perilous times will come and the wickedness of men will increase.
6. **2PETER 3:3** - Peter foretells that "scoffers" will come in the "last days." He then goes to tell about the second coming of Jesus and the destruction of the earth.
7. **Hebrews 1:2** - The "last days" is the period of time when God speaks exclusively through His Son, Jesus. Only one time period fits this and that is the entire Christian age.

TEXTS FOR "LATTER DAYS"

1. **Numbers 24:14** - **Balaam told Balaak** - What the Israelites would do to the Moabites near the end of their days. (last days of his kingdom, before they were destroyed).
2. **Deuteronomy 4:30** - Later, in the history of Israel, after they had settled in the new land.
3. **Deuteronomy 31:29** - Later in their history, after the death of Moses.
4. **Job 42:12** - The Lord blessed Job more in his latter days than in the first.
5. **Proverbs 19:20** - Speaks of hearing instruction that would make one wise later in life.
6. **Isaiah 2:2 and Micah 4:1** - **Speak of the establishment of the church in the "latter days"**
7. **Daniel uses the term "latter days" to refer to Christian age.**

INTRODUCTION:

Today is the "last Sunday" of August in the year 2011.

Thursday will be the last day of August 2011.

There will never, as far as we know, in the history of mankind be another August 28, 2011.

1. When one mentions the "last days" in a spiritual sense some people shudder in fear.
2. "chronos eschoatos" - The end of chronology; eschatology--study of final things
3. Biblically speaking the term "last days" is used in different ways: It does not mean the same thing every time it is used, but rather, the meaning is determined by the context.
 - a. In your lifetime, what the final outcome will be...or "later in your life" (Genesis 49:1)
 - b. Time, Nehemiah 8:18, from the first day unto the last day of the feast of booths (an entire month), he read in the book of the law of God.
 - c. Also used to mean the Christian age or last dispensation (Hebrews 1:2; 2Tim 3:1).
 - d. It is not used in Matthew 24 or Revelation 20, to refer to the end of time.
 - 1) Mathew 24:19, 22, 29 "Those days"
 - 2) Matthew 24:36 "Of that day" & of "that hour" no one knows.

I. THE CHRISTIAN ATTITUDE: 2 Cor 5:1-8 read; 2 Cor 5:1-7

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we **groan, earnestly desiring** to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent **groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed**, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

II. THE LAST or "LATTER" DAYS ARE NOT:

- A. It is not a 1 thousand year period when Jesus will reign on a literal throne in Jerusalem.
 - 1) Kingdom is not of this world.
 - 2) Will meet Him in the air (1Thess.4:13-18); and in the clouds (Acts 1:9-11).
- B. It is not a period of the so-called battle Armageddon (symbolic, spiritual war).

III. WHAT THE LAST or "LATTER" DAYS ARE:

- A. Specifically, it is the time frame:
 - 1. Patriarchal, Adam to the Law
 - 2. Mosical, from the Law till Christ
 - 3. Last Days, Christian dispensation
 - a. Began at the cross, Hebrews 9:26
 - b. Until the "last day" John 6:39, 40, 44, 54, 11:24, 12:48
 - c. Today we are in the "last days"
 - 1) Hebrews 1:2 Has in these last days, (present)
 - 2) 1 John 2:18

IV. WHAT TAKES NOT PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS

- A. Fulfillment of prophecy, Jeremiah 23:20; Daniel 2:28, 10:14
 - 1. The church:
 - a. It will be established, Isaiah 2:2 & Micah 4:1, *"And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."*
 - b. A fulfillment of Daniel 2:44
 - 2. Destruction of Jerusalem:
 - a. Joel 2:28-32, 29* "those days"
 - b. Acts 2:16-21, 17* "last days" inspired commentary
 - 3. Jesus, Hebrews 9:26, 1 Peter 1:20
- B. The state of the world, exhortation
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:1-13, 14-17
 - 2. James 5:1-6~~7-9
 - 3. 2 Peter 3:1-7~~8-10,
 - 4. 1 John 2:18-23~~24-27, antichrist
 - 5. Jude 17,18~~19-21

C. Christians wait faithfully

1. Matthew 10:22, 13:39,40, 49

2. 1 Corinthians 1:8, Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Hebrews 3:14, 6:11

4. 1 Peter 1:5, 4:7

CONCLUSION:

1. The present time frame is the "last days"

2. Nothing to be feared, just know that the end is coming and that Jesus is returning.