

IN THE LAST DAYS

Introduction

- 1) **2 Timothy 3:1** – Paul warned that perilous times were to come *“in the last days”*
- 2) The phrase “the last days” is variously interpreted by religious groups today
 - a) One of the most popular views is that the “last days” will be the period of time just before and including the end-time events of the rapture, the great tribulation, and the battle of Armageddon which will usher in the 1000-year reign of Christ upon the earth. Those who hold this view will say that we are either close to or have just entered the “last days.”
- 3) A study of Scripture will shed the light of truth on this important and misunderstood topic

I) “Latter/Last Days” in the Old Testament

- A) “Latter days” = “Last days” (same Heb. word *acharith* meaning “the last or end, hence, the future” [Strong]); refers to a *future time* which may also be an *end time*
- B) Refers to the *ending part of an individual’s life* (Job 42:12; Prov. 19:20)
- C) Refers to a *future period of human history* (Gen. 49:1; Num. 24:14; Deut. 31:29)
- D) Refers to a *future messianic kingdom and covenant*
 - 1) **Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1** – future establishment of the mountain of the Lord’s house
 - 2) **Daniel 2:28, 44** – future setting up of indestructible kingdom in days of Roman Empire
 - 3) **Joel 2:28** – future pouring out of the Spirit on all flesh – “come to pass *afterward*”
 - 4) **Hosea 3:5** – Israel will seek God and David their king; fear Lord and His goodness
 - 5) **Jeremiah 31:31** – “the days are coming” for a new covenant (same time as the “last days”)

II) The “Last Days” in the New Testament

- A) It is the *final* arrangement of God’s scheme of redemption before the end of earth and time
 - 1) Dispensations: **Patriarchal, Mosaic, Christian** (last days)
- B) Mosaic covenant ended at cross (Col. 2:14); church/kingdom of Christ was established on Pentecost (Acts 2); “Last days” = Jesus’ death to His second coming
 - 1) **Acts 2:16-17** – Day of Pentecost and onward = “this is what” Joel spoke about
 - 2) **1 Peter 1:20; Hebrews 1:1-2** – Christ revealed in these last times for us; God speaks by His Son now “in these last days”
 - 3) **James 5:1-3** – heaped up “treasure” of wickedness before judgment (cf. Rom. 2:5)
 - 4) **2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18** – scoffers will come in last days contradicting truth of God
 - 5) **2 Timothy 3:1** – perilous times will come in days of Christ’s kingdom (cf. 4:3)

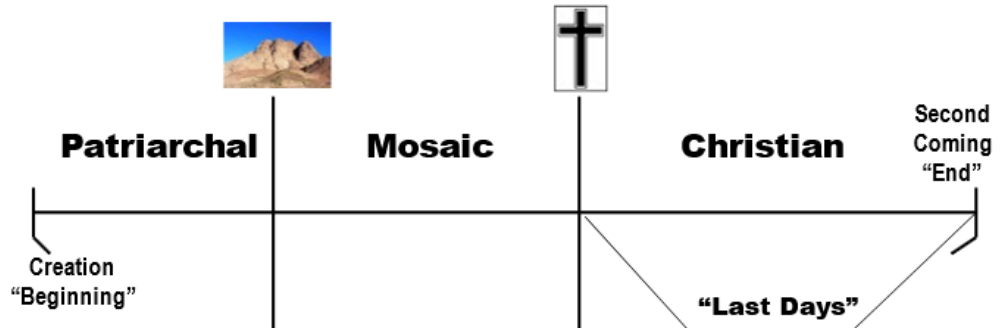
III) We are Living in the “Last Days”

- A) “Last days” refers to the final period/dispensation of God’s plan of redemption
 - 1) Gospel call extends from Pentecost to Jesus’ return – now is day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2)
 - 2) The “last days” will conclude with the “last day” (Jn. 6:40)
 - 3) After these “last days” there will be **no more time** upon this earth (1 Thess. 4:17; 2 Pet. 3:10)
- B) Beware of false teaching concerning the “last days”
 - 1) Teaching that it was a 40-year transition period [AD 30-70] between the old and new covenants (**AD 70 theory**); *contradicts teaching of Romans 7:4; Hebrews 10:9
 - 2) Teaching that it will be a short period of “tribulation” just before the second coming (**premillennialism**); *tribulation *led up to* the destruction of Jerusalem (Matt. 24:21-22,29,34)

Conclusion

We are those “on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11), who **now** live in the last days of God’s grand plan of redemption, where salvation is offered **once and for all** in Christ Jesus. There will be no other plan or time – **now** is the day of your salvation. Obey God today!

Dispensations (Divine Arrangements)



Mosaic covenant ended at cross (Col. 2:14)

Church/kingdom established on Pentecost (Acts 2)