



The Last Days

By

Pastor

Ian Wilson



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Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
Chapter 1: The Hourglass of Time	3
Chapter 2: God Who is Lord of All	6
Chapter 3: Old Testament	9
Chapter 4: Christ's Promises, Parables and Prophecies Concerning the Last Days	13
Chapter 5: The End Times as Spoken by Paul	16
Chapter 6: Revelation of Paul From 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2	18
Chapter 7: The End Times as Spoken by Peter	21
Chapter 8: 1 Kings 22 – Today	23



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Chapter 1: The Hourglass of Time



One of the clearest evidences that mankind does not understand the nature or value of time is the way they waste it. We belong to a race that is but mortal men, who by and large live their lives on earth as if they were immortal. But as the old English saying rightly states ‘time and tide wait for no man.’

‘*Teach us how to remember our days*’ is the cry of the psalmist and with good reason. They are short.

‘*Redeem the time*’ says the Apostle Paul. With good reason; it is precious.

It is only in the light of the Scriptures that we are able to understand the brief but important role we play in that grand continuum of creation, from its commencement six thousand years ago, to its imminent conclusion, when Christ returns to end all time as we know it and presents the Kingdom to the Father.

What should our attitude be while we are sojourning for this very short time upon planet Earth? Peter in **1 Peter 4:2**, says we should pass our lives in soberness and ‘godly living’, as in the sight of God and also make it our chief concern to seek the face of God that we might know His will on earth and do it.

As we consider God’s master plan for planet Earth and His special creation, mankind, we see that He is working to a pre-ordained schedule.



His own Name, from the Book of Revelation, is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Serving and trusting in a God whose name is A to Z should be a very comforting thought to the heart of a believer. It means that, there is nothing that can take God by surprise and that even when things seem to go wrong, events are ultimately in the control of the ONE WHO WILL MAKE THEM GO RIGHT.



Thus, the verse from **Romans 8:28**, “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*”

When Peter went to preach at the house of Cornelius in **Acts Chapter 10**, it was but a few years after he had seen Jesus Christ raised from the dead. As an opening to his sermon he says, ‘*He is Lord of All*’. As I have studied the Scripture, preached the gospel in many countries and observed life over the years, I have come to an ever-growing awe of this statement.

HE IS LORD OF ALL!

He really is Lord of All!

Lord of Heaven, Lord of Earth, Lord of the Underworld, Lord of All Circumstances and Every Situation and, in the context of our subject, Lord of Time.

In his great theory of relativity or the Unified Theory, Einstein managed to find a secure place for electro magnetism, strong force, weak force and gravity but, finding where time and space fit in eluded him. His brilliant mind had its limitations, for he, himself, had been created by the infinite wisdom and power of the One who holds these things in His Hand.

It was to do with the times and seasons that the disciples questioned Christ after His resurrection. They were oblivious to the significance of what was happening around them. They only wanted to know when God would set up His Kingdom and (presumably) when they would be sitting on their own thrones.

Jesus’ reply is worth noting. “**It is not for you to know these things. The Father has a timetable and it is in His hands not yours. You get ahead and spread His Word.**”

Well, we may ask, “If it is not for us to know the times and seasons, why are we studying a book called The Last Days?”

I believe the answer is simple.

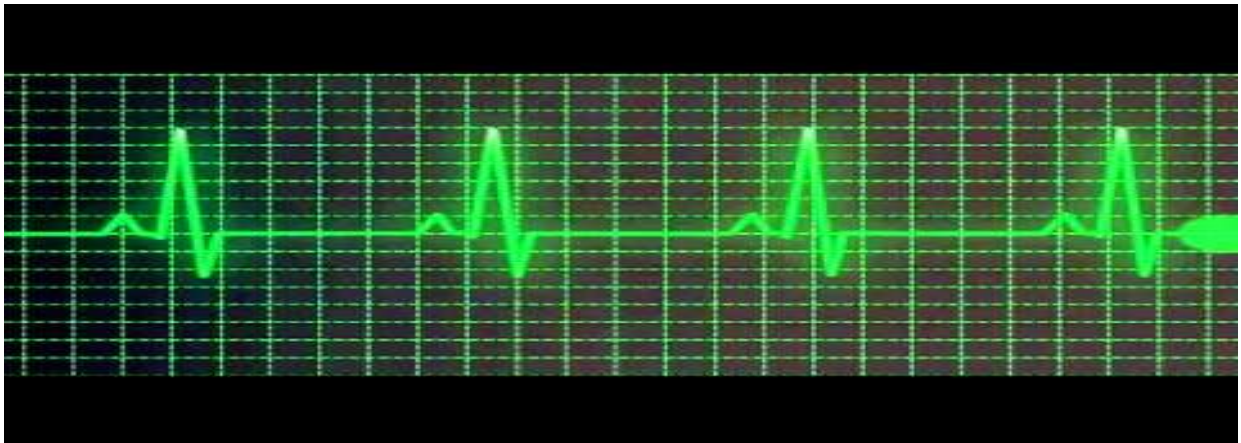
The Book of Acts represents the **FIRST** days, but now, two thousand years later, we really are in the **LAST** days. Knowing the times in which we live, should bring both urgency and clarity to living in 2019 and on planet Earth. Let us then consider the



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days in which we live in the light of human history and the revelation of Scripture. With the help of the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher. We should be placed in utmost readiness for the return of Jesus to take His church to their eternal home. For a moment consider two things that are so close and familiar to us that we forget them. The first is the ticking of a clock. Perhaps we have one in our house or office. We have to stop what we are doing to listen to the clock ticking. The noise is always there but we never hear it. It is background noise. The second is the beating of our own heart. So close that we are never aware of it. We have to stop what we are doing to listen to our own heart or take our own pulse. There it goes, 70 or 75 beats per minute. Always there, always familiar and, because of that, always forgotten.



Familiarity has both pros and cons. The pros belong to daily habits and routines that help us to function in a structured world and in an orderly fashion. The trains run on time, the stores open and close at set hours, etc. All of this is necessary for our daily living on Planet Earth. However, in the midst of familiarity, everything is in motion and moving to a pre-ordained conclusion. In the midst of the familiar schedules and the predictable order of society, Jesus said there are signs that point to a sudden end to society that will be brought about by God's intervention, as He brings to pass His eternal purpose for mankind. Here is the title of our study: The Last Days.



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Chapter 2: God Who is Lord of All



We begin our chapter with this statement of Peter given to the gentile audience in the house of the Roman Centurion. It is a **MOMENTOUS** statement since Cornelius was present serving Emperor Claudius who had declared **HIMSELF** to be lord of all.

These were treasonable words spoken in the presence of a house full of witnesses. They were enough to have Peter executed were it not for what happened a few minutes later when the Holy Ghost descended on the entire company and saved and filled every person present. Christ was and is indeed, **LORD OF ALL**.

This should become the foundation stone of all our doctrine, all our prayerful planning, all of our decisions and all departments here on earth; **HE IS LORD OF ALL!**

Because of this **HE KNOWS THE FUTURE** and **HOLDS THE FUTURE IN HIS HANDS**. Peter speaking on the day of Pentecost, displayed this truth when he attached the predetermined plan of God to the **CRUCIFIXION, RESURRECTION** and **ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST**.

Note also that he did not spare his audience, but told them they were still guilty of the death of Christ and would suffer the consequences unless they repented and believed.

Here is a point to ponder:



If the Jews in Jerusalem fulfilled the Will of God in the slaying of Christ, why were they still found to be guilty by God?

Truly we are grappling with mysteries.



To his revelation of God's power, Peter adds a THEREFORE which can be summed up in his second epistle where he says, in terms of us living on this planet, "*all these things are shortly coming to pass. What manner of people ought we to be?*" **(2 Peter 3:11)**

He then used two examples of history to emphasize the FOLLY of human thinking; one is the example of Noah and the salvation offered by the ark. The other was the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Abraham. Both of these are included in the Scripture for our admonition in the days of deep skepticism in which we live.

The One who is LORD OF ALL is telling us to read and understand the signs of our own times and take the necessary and steps to action.

During the Second World War, radar became the X factor in Britain's salvation from the vast bomber squadrons sent over the English Channel from Northern France. The ability to see across the miles with radar beacons gave sufficient time for our air, land and sea defences to take counter actions. In a very real sense it allowed us to see into the future although the future was only 30 minutes away. In my own case an air raid warning siren sounded. My mother would run upstairs, gather my sister and myself in her arms and bring us downstairs to a steel bomb shelter set up in the front room of our house. Soon the sound of enemy aircraft to be heard overhead. Our neighbourhood was shaking with the concussion of 500 lb bombs and was being lit up by incendiary flares. However, the sort of warning that we were given was vital to our survival.

Even so, the Scriptures have given us a similar siren. It sounds forth in the gospels, in the parables, in the epistles of Paul and Peter and in the Old Testament. In fact, the Old Testament only supports and endorses the declarations and warnings of the New Testament.

What does this mean? It means that the same Spirit that inspired the prophets of old is the Spirit that breathed through the Saviour Jesus Christ and is the same Spirit that moved in the men who wrote the epistles. It is the Spirit of God, who first moved



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across the face of the waters in Genesis 1 and who said, “*Let there be light*”.
(Genesis 1:3)

His declaration is still the same at this very hour. “*Let there be light*” – light to our understanding, light to our minds and hearts to see and comprehend the day in which we are now called to live.

The beating of the heart is also so familiar to us that we ignore it until it begins to go **WRONG** then intervention is required and often **TOO LATE**. While we are still healthy, we remain unaware of our heart beat, but let it once begin to fail, then all of our plans and priorities change **IMMEDIATELY**.

So, it is with the passage of time in the macro-cosmos of life. There is an unfolding of events around us that is **LARGELY IGNORED**, until something goes **WRONG**. These are times, such as 9/11, that the catastrophe causes us to halt and think before the general slumber of mankind commences again.

As we shall see in the succeeding chapters of our study, the predominant call from God is to **WAKE UP** before the **SHAKE UP**, and having woken up, begin to live in the light of approaching judgment and the **IMMINENT** return of Jesus Christ to earth.





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Chapter 3: Old Testament

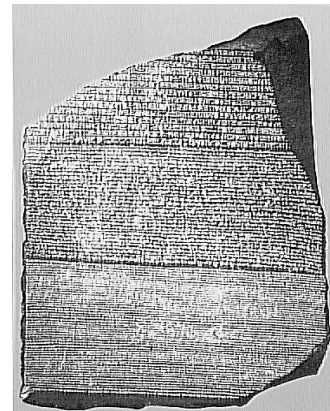


In our study this week we will be looking at the revelation of the End days that is given to us in the Old Testament. These Scriptures were well known and used by the apostles in their writings and preaching. Let us remember that the only Scriptures that these men had WERE the Scriptures of the Old Testament. They used them frequently in their writing which then became what we know as the New Testament.

The book of Peter says “*Holy men of old filled with the Spirit of Christ wrote as His Spirit moved them.*”

Daniel’s remarkable Prophecy (**Daniel 2**) came through a dream given to a heathen king. Daniel through Word of Knowledge retold the dream and not only so but gave the interpretation of it. It is one of the most remarkable passages of Scripture ever recorded.

Let me fast forward to 1799. Napoleon has invaded Egypt. He wants to make a thrust from there to India to cut off British trade. Whilst there in a village called Rosetta, his men found a strange stone. It becomes one of the most important archeological discoveries of all time. It resides at this moment in the British Museum. The stone has three sides, one in Greek, one in Persian and the other in Egyptian hieroglyphics.



The preachers and apostles in the Book of Acts made continual reference to the Old Testament since they were the only Scriptures available.

The New Testament was still being written, BY THEMSELVES.



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Peter, on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:28 – 32**, quoted the prophet Joel.

²⁸ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

³⁰ And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

³² And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call. (Joel 2:28 – 32)

This is an incredible passage which Peter was inspired to preach from. It is the 1st day of the church (its birthday) and yet Peter uses this Scripture to say what is going to happen in the LAST DAYS, that will lead up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a scriptural Rosetta stone.

The telescopic nature of time is seen here. The first was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, happening then and there. The culmination of the church age would be great and notable day of the Lord, which would be accompanied by shaking of physical world of the atmosphere and cosmos around us.

How was Peter able to speak with such authority? The answer is simple. He had just spent the last three years of his life listening to the Master Himself teach upon what would take place during the culmination of the planet Earth's final days. These teachings of Christ, we will consider in our next chapter of The Last Days.

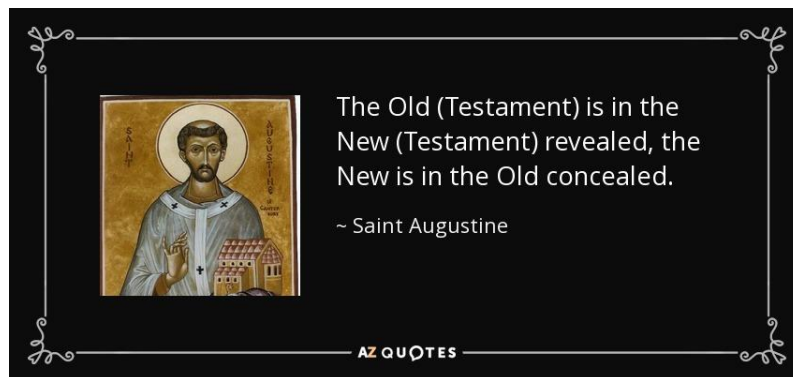
The squiggles of Hieroglyphic are only squiggles until there is the power of interpretation to make them clear. So, it is with many of the prophecies of the Old Testament. They remain sealed and unknown until THE AUTHOR of the book chooses to unveil their meaning, which He has done through the writers of the New



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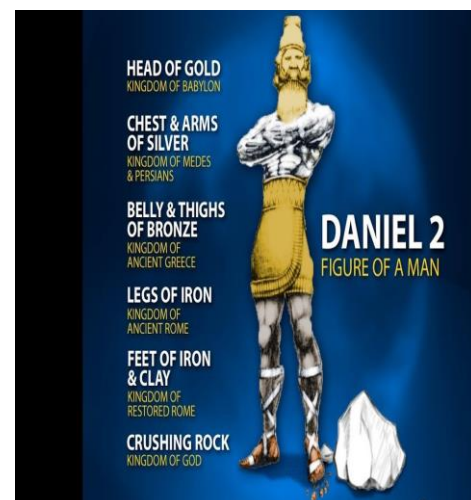
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Testament. Thus, we come back to that well known saying, concerning the New and Old Testament.



With that thought in mind, we look at some of the startling statements in the Old Testament that have been fulfilled or are being fulfilled today.

In Daniel Chapter 2, the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar is given recounted and then explained for us. The metallic statue is a figure of the denominations of time, seen through the kingdom and empires of the human race. It is staggering that these various body parts of a man should represent an accurate unfolding of human history, but, remember that the VISION Nebuchadnezzar was the VISION OF A MAN – a human being. The golden head represented the Babylonian Empire, the chest and arms of silver represented the Medo-Persians, the belly of brass represented the Greek Empire and the legs of irons representing the East and West parts of the Roman Empire. Finally attached to the legs were the feet of iron and clay. Then comes the stone cut without hands that strikes the metallic man in the feet and brings down the whole statue. This represents the end of time as we know it.



The stone, uncreated is doubtless the return of Christ. That the feet are attached to iron legs and have clay mixed in with them, speaks of the strength and the weakness



of democracy. The strength is the strength of the people, but also weakness in so far as the fickleness of the people can change direction at any moment. Notice also that democracy is Rule from the feet up, not the head down.

So, in conclusion, we can say that in the days of democracy, on earth, Heaven will institute the final government of the Everlasting Kingdom of the most high God.

The concluding chapter of Daniel endorses what has been said here for, specifically, the last days, are mentioned in regard to two prevailing conditions. The first that **KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED.**

The second, that **MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO.**

In short, there shall be a quantum increase in knowledge and a quantum increase in speed.

Clearly this is a vignette of the days in which we live and one of the most remarkable descriptions of life in the 21st century. Remarkable that is was given 2500 years before the computer, smart phone, automobile, airplane and space ship arrived on the planet.



When would this all take place? **THE TIME OF THE END** says **Daniel 12:4.**

It is going to be a worth while exercise for our group to list at least thirty innovations that have come to mankind in the last generation that substantiate this vision of Daniel.



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Chapter 4: Christ's Promises, Parables and Prophecies Concerning the Last Days



It was from the mid years onward of Jesus ministry on earth that He began to speak very specifically of His departure and the certainty of His return to the earth and of the signs that would accompany His second coming. In classifying His promised return, we see:

- 1) The parables of His return at the end of time
- 2) The prophecies of the **CONDITIONS** that would **LEAD** up to His return.

But firstly, let us turn to **John 14** and a much-loved passage from the Bible which begins “...*let not your heart be troubled*...” wonderfully comforting words. All the more powerful since they were spoken before His own death and He is already telling His followers that He will be coming again. Right there is the foundational promise for all our hope and the subsequent doctrine of His return to earth.

“I will come again”!

Surrounding this soon to be apocalyptic event are several parables.

In **Matthew 25**, we have the parable of the virgins which speaks of a certain and a sudden return of the Bridegroom to the earth. A little later we are given the parable of the super rich king who leaves his subjects with instructions to look after his affairs while he is gone and what happens when he returns unexpectedly.

There are several parables that speak of an unexpected and sudden return of Christ to the earth. They also tell of Christ taking care of business after He has arrived back to the Planet Earth.



There is not the slightest touch of humour in any of these parables. They are seriously delivered and speak of serious consequences for those who live careless and unheeding lives.



In Matthew 13:37 – 43, we are given the story of the field sown with wheat and tares. The wheat will be gathered and garnered and the tares shall be gathered and **BURNED** at the **END OF THE WORLD**. Also, in similar vein, we have the parable of the fisherman who hauls in a catch of good fish and bad fish.

At the end of the world we see the same sort out, the good fish being kept, and the bad fish burned. This time Jesus adds that there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Whatever that means, it is not pleasant.

Not only do we have the parables of Christ regarding the end of time, but we also have His prophecies.

In the great ‘End Time’ chapter of Matthew, we have Christ’s references to Noah. What took place in the overthrow of the world by flood will occur when Jesus comes back suddenly and takes His people to their eternal home in Heaven. Those who miss the ark pass into outer darkness. These prophecies are dire and warn of great danger ahead – a warning that **MUST** be heeded. There is a side-bar to prophecies of every sort, written, spoken and both Old and New Testaments. To be effective they must firstly be understood and secondly, they must be remembered. Jesus, on several occasions said to His disciples, “Do you not remember?”

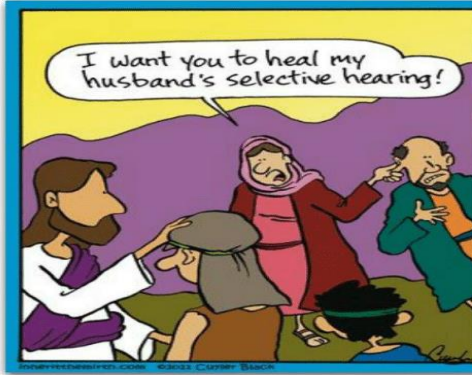
Whatever that subject might have been, it was quite clear that they had **NOT** remembered what Jesus had said and what had happened. Astonishing but true.

For example, when Christ spoke of His imminent death and of His rising again from the dead, His disciples only heard the first part (the bad news) – His dying and crucifixion. They were oblivious to the second part, and the most important part, namely that He would rise again from the dead three days after His death. It was



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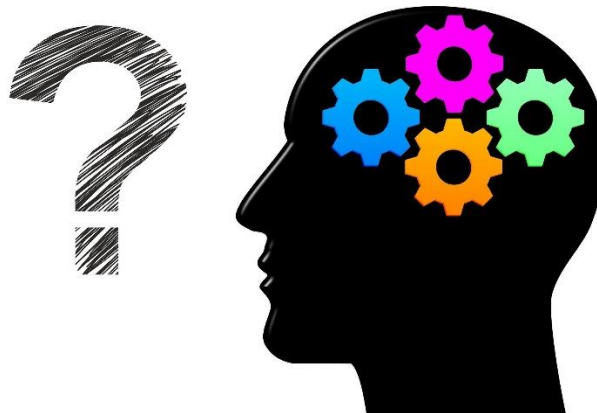


only AFTER He had risen from the dead that His disciples REMEMBERED that Christ had said He would rise again. What is it in the human mind that is so SELECTIVE in what it chooses to hear? It must surely be part of our obsolescence after the fall.

I have discovered this in audiences time and again. I have given Words of Knowledge and prophecy in public meetings to individual people only to have to remind them a few

weeks later of what was spoken to them. I had remembered, they had forgotten.

Make a vow to yourself, right now, that you will be absolutely alert as to what is being said that may involve you and be ready to recall the words when they come to pass. Incidentally many people who claim that they have a poor memory may simply be too lazy to use it. Remember that the memory is a voluntary part of the human being. This being so we can choose to remember words, places, people and events. How vital it is that we should choose to remember the Word of God and specific times when God spoke to us.





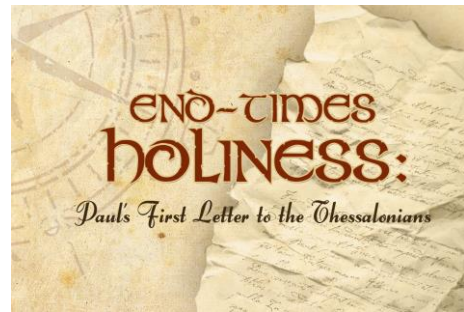
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Chapter 5: The End Times as Spoken by Paul

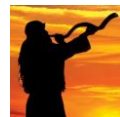
Whatever Jesus had taught and prophesied about the last days and of His return to earth to receive His people, was taken up by the apostles.

Paul, in his Thessalonian Epistles, begins to speak in detail about what will happen on Christ's return to earth. What Jesus promised in a few simple statements is taken up by Paul in detail and descriptions are added. The "WHEN" of this event is never specified. Paul simply states "It is going to be soon. You can count on it."



At the end of each chapter in the first Thessalonian letter, Paul reminds his readers the return of the Lord is at hand. "At hand" means so close you can reach out and touch it. That proximity of the resurrection of Christ caused all his followers to believe that the Master was going to return in that generation or at the most, within the space of fifty or a hundred years. It must have been a cause of some disappointment to many that they died without witnessing that stupendous event. However, if the end of time as we know it, was believed to be the close of the first century, how much closer will it be as we open the 21st century?

It is in the 4th chapter of Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians that he begins to add detail to the coming of the Lord being at hand. In the passage beginning in verse 19, he speaks of dispelling ignorance concerning the death of believers. Obviously, the church thirty years after the Return of Christ to Heaven was wondering about when this Return to Earth would be. Some of them had already died and gone to be with the Lord, instead of the fulfilled hope of Jesus coming for all of them. So, in the light of the indefinite delay of Christ's return, Paul speaks about the death of Christians being only a form of sleep and that the Lord's trumpet blast will wake them up and the dead in Christ, once woken,





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will ascend along with those alive on earth and meet the Lord in the AIR.

This is the first reference that we have of the Rapture (the sudden catching up of believers to meet the Lord). This passage of Scripture has given way too much debate as to whether this event would be BEFORE or AFTER the great tribulation, but, as we shall see later, there is a predominance of proof in the Word of God that His people will be taken to their heavenly home before the outpouring of God's wrath.

“Wherefore comfort yourselves with these words” says Paul, and I must add that it is a lot easier to be comforted knowing that the church will be taken home before the vials of wrath are outpoured than having to endure such things spoken of in



Revelation. The fourth chapter then closes with the renewed warning of being aware and alert in our posture of heart because the Lord, when He comes, will come suddenly like a thief in the night. Not only does the thief come suddenly and walk with stealth but he also comes to steal something. We need to ask ourselves what is Christ going to steal when He comes.

The second epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians, especially the first and second chapters, give much detail as to what will take place IMMEDIATELY before the return of the Lord and will be studied separately in another lesson.





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Chapter 6: Revelation of Paul **From 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2**



The Thessalonian church was well instructed concerning end time events. In his second letter, Paul gets down to some unusual details concerning the final moment of the church of Jesus Christ upon earth.

In chapter 4 of the first epistle, we have already seen how the subject of the death of believers is intimately linked with those still living upon earth and how both living, and the dead will be joined in everlasting life and unbroken unity when the Lord Jesus returns. Remember that he said, “comfort one another with these words”?

Now in the second epistle he diverges from the future of the church and speaks about the world and its unbelieving society that has resisted the truth of the Gospel and that has brought trouble and persecution to God’s people. When Christ returns it will be in judgement upon those who have rejected the light and persecuted those who have shone that light through their testimony and teaching. Upon such people will come swift and deserved punishment. (**2 Thessalonians 1:6 – 10**)

As I mentioned in an earlier chapter, in none of the prophecies and statements regarding the return of the Lord, is there ever a hint of levity. All is written in solemn but exciting terms. The Lord is coming soon, and He is coming suddenly.

In the second chapter of the book we are given an account of what will take place. Paul begins with words of assurance to the church – they should neither be troubled or terrified by the upcoming events. They have all be foretold and settled in the purposes of Almighty God. They can rest assured that the church will be kept safe – their security is in the Lord Jesus Christ from whom they can NEVER be separated. In verse 3, we have a controversial passage in which Paul says there there will come a ‘great falling away’ before the Son of Perdition appears on the scene. What does this mean? The generally accepted view is that the ‘falling away’ is a falling away



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from the faith but this runs counter to the message of stability and steadfastness that Paul has been giving.

If the falling away is not a declension from the faith, then what is Paul speaking about? (The physical church on earth) In the original Greek the word ‘falling away’ can mean ‘departure’ and this passage could read; “Don’t be worried, before anti-Christ (the son of perdition) appears, there will be the great departure.” A departure not from the faith but from the EARTH already described for us in the 4th chapter of 1 Thessalonians.

Now it all makes sense and is in continuity with all that Paul has been writing about. The departure is the rapture of the church and only then can come the arrival on Earth of this sinister figure called ‘The Son of Perdition’. Now notice what Paul says he will do. Verse 4 is a real revelation of his power and his wickedness. “*He will oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped as God*”. In fact, anti-Christ will posture himself as God in the temple of Jerusalem and will offer proof of his power and authority. Paul then says in the next verse, verse 5: “*I have already told you these things*”. Quite astonishing revelation. But remember all has been foretold and nothing is taking place without the permission of God who rules supremely from His throne in Heaven. Hallelujah!

The next passage of **2 Thessalonians 2** is a terrifying unfolding of the events leading up to the rapture of the church and what takes place immediately afterwards. Having told of the emergence of the Man of Sin and his rise to world prominence, Paul reminds us that his rise to power cannot take place until the RESTRAINTS of God are removed from him. He speaks of WITHOLDING and the mystery of iniquity UNFOLDING. Think of the words. Something mighty and malevolent is at work. There is a withholding of satanic powers by God and simultaneously and unfolding of the iniquitous plans of the devil UNTIL, suddenly the restraints are removed, and Anti-Christ emerges with lying signs and wonders.

But where is the church in all of this? Gone. Taken away by the same Spirit that resisted the working of Satan. Now wickedness comes upon the earth in an unrestrained flood. I say unrestrained because the church IS the restraint upon a society transmuting into Sodom and Gomorrah. When God’s people have been

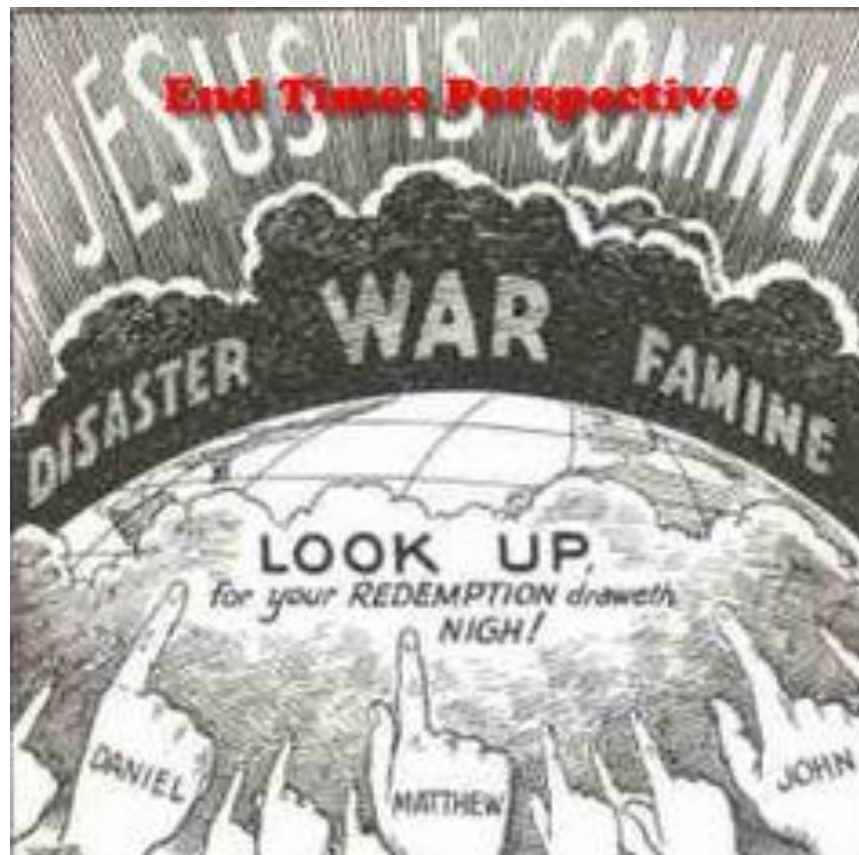


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taken away – the salt and light have been removed, the dam has been breached and Satan has full sway FOR A SEASON.

This is the great tribulation spoken of in the Scriptures.





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Chapter 7: The End Times as Spoken by Peter

The epistle of Peter differs from that of Paul – not in doctrinal truth but in detail. In the 3rd chapter of his 2nd epistle, he becomes specific and urgent in his address to the believer. His

opening statement is important and applies to all believers when he says, “*This second epistle I write unto you to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance*”. This is the point where we left off chapter 6. The tendency to FORGET – is a weakness that is built into every man’s fallen condition. But notice also that he says, “*you have pure minds*”. Let that be an encouragement to all of us. Our minds have been washed in the washing of the Word of God (**Ephesians 4**) and now it only remains that they be instructed in pure doctrine.

Peter goes on after his reference to the LAST DAYS to speak of the general derision that believers will encounter. Scepticism concerning the CREATION STORIES (the first days) and open ridicule about the FINAL days. He goes on to speak about a prevailing climate of scepticism and mockery about the creation story and about those who warn of the sudden end to society as we know it. How like the days in which we are living where the fairy story of evolution has replaced the faithful Bible account of the creation of the Universe. And scientists now speak confidently of the solar system continuing for a few more million years before petering out. The actual ‘Peter’ account likens the days in which we live to the days immediately preceding the Flood of Noah, when swift judgement came upon the earth. This sudden intervention was in the form of a flood of water, but the exit, also without warning, will mark the end of the world as we know it.





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This will be in the form of a horrific conflagration. The elements will melt with fervent heat and the Heavens and earth shall pass away with great violence and velocity. The coming wrath of God will finally have arrived. His plan of rescue for His own redeemed people, will be accomplished. They will be the ones who have believed the Gospel and who have found refuge in the NEW ARK of Jesus Christ. Those who have come through the ONE DOOR of Him, who said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. NO MAN comes to the Father except by Me”. That door, says Peter is still open, and as in Noah’s day, there is still time to enter and be saved. But time is short. Peter has told us in this third chapter that one day with the Lord is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.



Just think of that.

If there are six thousand years since creation, Adam to Moses being two thousand years, Moses to Jesus being another two and Christ to the year of around 2030 as another two thousand years. We must therefore be at the advent of the Day of God.

Not only so. The door of the ark was left open for 6 days and, sometime between the end of the 6th day and the beginning of the 7th day, the door was closed. The day in which we live therefore, is the sixth day and the pointers of the clock tremble at the midnight hour. Peter goes on to ask what manner of people ought we to be since these things must shortly come to pass? The number 6 has always represented the number of man and seven the number of God. We are now living at the conclusion of the DAY OF MAN and now await the great and wonderful DAY OF THE LORD.

Even so, says the 22nd chapter of Revelation, come quickly Lord Jesus.



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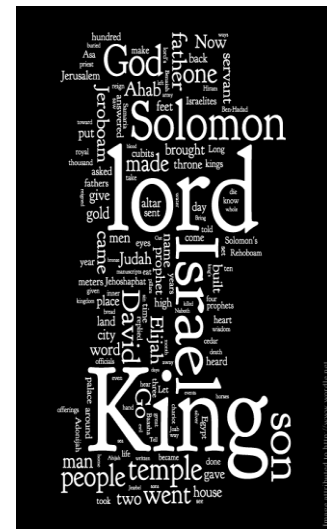


Chapter 8: 1 Kings 22 – Today

In the book of Chronicles, a tribe of men came to David and were described as ‘*men who knew the times in which they lived and knew what Israel ought to do.*’ (1 **Chronicles 12**).

This is very telling because their action was predicated by their knowledge of the times in which they lived. Many generations of believers have come and gone to their reward since the Lord returned to Heaven promising, as He did, that He would come again in like manner as He left. (**Acts 1**) Many of these people also believed that the days in which they lived were the LAST DAYS and that theirs was the TERMINAL generation. Even the Venerable Bede, a godly monk and scholar from the 8th century in England believed that the Lord was at hand. That was over a thousand years ago. In the great Puritan Revival: of the 17th century, there was a group of earnest men who called themselves the “Fifth Monarchy Men”, a term they took from Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel. The fifth monarch who was coming, of course, Christ. Then, more recently, a host of people have tried to pin the badge on the anti-Christ. In my own time, Henry Kissinger, Hitler, Mussolini and even Prince Charles have been tagged for the job.

Such is the nature of speculation. All these things aside, we can say with confidence that there has never been a day and hour such as the one we live in. If Israel be God’s chronometer and I believe it is, then we see several prophecies that have been





fulfilled in the last seventy years that clearly herald the return of their Messiah – our Saviour Jesus Christ.

What are some of these?

- 1) The nation of Israel was born in a day. (**Isaiah**) – May 14, 1948
- 2) The people have been returned to their homeland, according to the prophecy of **Ezekiel**.
- 3) They have been given back their language and all speak it. (**Zephaniah**). The ancient language spoken by David.
- 4) The desert has blossomed like a rose (**Isaiah**)
- 5) From a people, who were not a people, they are now the fifth largest nuclear power on earth.

In fact, the only prophecy not fulfilled concerning it is the rebuilding of the third temple.

Incredible! The fig tree has put forth it's leaves. Not only so, but in the wider world the prophecies of John have come to pass from the book of Revelation.

In commerce we are now well on our way to replacing paper currency with chips in plastic. Soon to come, chips in hands and the scanning of eyeballs, what we would call biometric. (**Revelation 9**) In the alignment of world powers, we have trading blocks, amalgamating in to one global network. There is now a world court, and a United Nations army with headquarters in Brussels and a world bank.

Where is all this leading? Obviously to a One World government and out of this a ONE WORLD LEADER, a person who we will call Satan's superman.

We may ask, how can these things be?

Our answer to this is that these things already are! For the systems and structures are already in place for one person to gain mastery over nations and over millions of people. This surely is a fulfillment of Revelation where the Word declares the nations wondered and worshipped 'the image of the Beast.'



By modern systems already in place we are now living in the days when message, image and surveillance can take place simultaneously. These days have never been, witnessed before in the history of the human race.

Therefore, we can confidently assert, that the days in which we live are truly THE LAST DAYS, Jesus said watch and pray. In other words, get ready, "*Be prepared is the cry of the Spirit*", for He is coming for a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. Neither the spots of adolescence nor the wrinkles of old age, but a Bride adorned for her husband.

2 Peter 3

The apostle poses as question relevant to all believers for all time.

"Seeing then those things must shortly come to pass, what manner of people ought we to be?"

I believe there should be godly intelligence in all believers. That we should be like the Bereans in **Acts 17**, who searched the Scriptures to see whether these things be so. Furthermore, I believe that imminence of Christs' return should lend and urgency to all our conduct and focus of living. Why should any Christian be like the Rich Fool in Luke 12, congratulating himself on his wealth and success but blind to the fact that he was living in his very LAST DAY.

"Awake" is the great cry of the Spirit!

Live in the light of eternity and the certainty of the midnight call, "The Bridegroom cometh". Then we will all rise with great joy to meet Him and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Amen and Amen!



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