

LAST DAYS

“But realize (ginosko / p.a.impv.2ps) this, that in the last days (eschatos hemera) [no definite article] difficult times will come.”

Next week, we will study the “difficult times” of the last days (2 Tim.3:1-9).

The Greek word for last is eschatos. In theology, it refers to the doctrine of Eschatology.

This lesson will study five aspects of the Eschatology doctrine of the Last Days.
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1. The incarnation of Jesus Christ placed the Last Days into the messianic history of Eschatology.

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, ‘the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.’” (Mark 1:14-15)

“Which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (2 Tim.1:9-10 John 3:5)

“God, **after** He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **in these last days has spoken to us** in His son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And he is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. **When** he had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb.1:1-3) [**Note the time words in bold print**]

“For the grace of God has **appeared, bringing salvation** to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory** of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” (Titus 2:11-13)

2. Historical Christology redemption of NC (as opposed to shadow Christology of the Old Covenant) brought messianic history to its consummation and into its Last Days.

“Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often; **but now once at the consummation of the ages** He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many **shall appear a second time** for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb.9:26-28)

“For He was **foreknown** before the foundation of the world, **but has appeared** in these last times for the sake of you (1 Pet.1:20)

“For while we were still helpless, **at the right time** Christ died for the ungodly.” (Rom.5:6; Gal.4:4-7)

“With a view to an administration suitable to **the fulness of the times**, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth.” (Eph.1:10)

3. The Last Days are characterized by “difficult times” (2 Tim.3:1-9/ 20) [characteristics].

“In the last days there shall be **mockers**, following after their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.” (Jude 18-19; 2 Pet.3:3-13)

“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times **some will fall away from the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron.” (1 Tim.4:1-2; 2 Tim.4:3-4; 1 John 4:1-2)

“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like **a thief** in the night. While **they** are saying, ‘peace and safety!’ **then** destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **But you, brethren**, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief.” (1 Thess.5:1-4)

“**For God has not destined us for wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess.5:9)

“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from wrath of God through Him.**” (Rom.5:9; Rev.6:12-17) [Wrath of The Lamb]

4. John refers to the last hour of the last days as characterized by apostate anti-Christian sentiment.

“Children, it is **the last hour**; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, **even now many antichrists** have arisen; from this we know that it is **the last hour**. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.” (1 John 2:18-19, 28)

“And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the **spirit of the antichrist**, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.” (1 John 4:3; 1-3)

“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that **the day of the Lord** has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.” (2:1-3) (Read 2 Thess.2:1-11)

5. The Second Coming of the Lord will end the Last Days of Eschatology (times and epochs).

_____ I _____ D, R, A _____ HS _____ HS, R _____ 2ndC _____ End of Eschatology
* _____ Last Days _____ *

First Thessalonians deals with this subject in every chapter: 1:10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-4, 9, and 23.

“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, **shall appear a second time** for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb.9:28; 1 Pet.3-5)

“**Then comes the end**, when he delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.” (1 Cor.15:24; 15:20-28)