

A Nation in Peril (#13) **[Perilous Times]**

The title of our final lesson in the series entitled, “A Nation in Peril”, comes from (2 Tim.3:1) – “But realize that in the last days **difficult times** (**chalepos kairos**) will come.”

- NIV and NAS translate chalepos as “difficult.”
- KJ translates it as “perilous.”
- Amplified translates it as “perilous times of great stress and trouble (hard to deal with and hard to bear).”

This lesson will study five points regarding the Perilous Times of the Last Days.
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1. In (2 Tim.3:1), the Church Age Believer (CAB) is commanded to realize or know the biblical teaching regarding perilous times of the last days.

The Greek word for realize or know is **ginosko (p.a. impv. 2ps)**. Vine gives this explanation of ginoko,

“Ginosko indicates relationship of the person ‘knowing’ and the object known, in this respect, what is ‘known’ is of value or of importance to the one who knows, and hence the establishment of the relationship especially of God’s knowledge.” (Vine’s Expository dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.346)

It is important that CABs everywhere in the world are able to discern between “the perilous times of the Last Days” from “a nation in peril”. This lesson will help you in this discernment.

NOTE: The next three points will introduce three important terms regarding the period under discussion. The final point will examine six passages and forty three (43) characteristics of the Last Days.

2. The “Last Days” is a general term used to describe the period between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ.

(Heb.1:1-3) “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.” (Eph.1:20)

(Heb.9:26) “Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now once at the consummation of the ages** He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

(1 Pet.1:20) “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.” (Gal.4:4; Rom.5:6).

3. The Last Hour of the last days is the church age.

(1 Jn.2:18) “Children, it is **the last hour**; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, **even now** many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.” (1 Jn.2:19-23; Rom.13:11)

The spirit of the antichrist:

(1 Jn.4:2) “By this you know that Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now is already in the world.” (1 Jn.4:3; 2 John 7)

(1 Pet.4:7) “The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.”

4. The second coming of Jesus Christ is called “the Day of the Lord”. (Heb.9:28).

(2 Thess.2:1-3) “Now we request you, brethren, with respect to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you 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 Thess.2:4-9) [the mystery of lawlessness]

(1Thess.5:1-2) “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.” (1Thess.4:13-18)

5. Six passages describe 43 characteristics of Perilous Times of the church age.

(2 Tim.3:1-9) **(25) We have put them into four categories.**

- Lovers of self, conceited, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, malicious gossips.
- Disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unloving, irreconcilable, without self-control.
- Brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led by various impulses.
- Unholy, lovers of pleasure rather than God, holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth, oppose the truth, men of depraved minds, rejected in regard to the faith.

(1 Tim.4:1-5) **(5)** Fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits, and doctrines of demons, hypocrisy of liars, legalism.

(Jude 18-19) **(5)** Mockers, ungodly lusts, cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of spirit.

(2 Tim.4:3-4) **(4)** not endure sound doctrine, ears tickled will accumulate themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, turn away ears from truth, turn aside to myths.

(2 Pet.3:3-4; 2:1-3) **(3)** Mockers, following after their own lusts, denial of second coming

(1 John 2:18-23; 4:3) **(1)** Spirit of antichrist

When did all this start?

Three-fold spiritual solution is Salvation, Spirituality and Spiritual growth.