



# Last Days

# Outline

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1. **So What? Why Does it Matter Anyway?**
2. **Postmillennialism**
3. **Amillennialism**
4. **Premillennialism**
5. **What's Daniel Talking About?**
6. **When Are, or Rather Were, the 'Last Days'?**
7. **Israel?**
8. **Coming(s) of Christ / Which Generation?**
9. **Olivet Discourse**
10. **So What is Going to Happen?**



# **Nailed it!**

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**“Dispensationalism switches the normal pattern of reading history literally and prophecy figuratively” – Author Unknown**

# **Biblically Speaking, When are the Last Days?**

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- **Meaning of this term so widely understood in a particular way as to create incredulity at even asking the question of what it means, much less challenging the pervasive assumed meaning**
- **The fact this term enjoys such unanimity speaks not to the truth of its assumed meaning, but to Dispensationalism's success in capturing the imagination of Christian and secular culture alike**
- **We are going to investigate the Biblical meaning of the term, and several similar terms. Three choices for its meaning generally exist from a Biblical perspective:**
  - **The period of history immediately preceding the return of Messiah**
  - **The entire period from incarnation to return of Messiah**
  - **Period (1<sup>st</sup> Century) when New Covenant was inaugurated, replacing the Old**

**I personally lean towards the third, have no problem with the second, but intend to show the Biblical implausibility of the first**

# **Biblical Terms to Explore**

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- **Latter Days**
- **Latter Times**
- **Last Time**
- **Last Hour**
- **End of the World**
- **Last Days**

# Latter Days

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**Gen 49:1** - And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the *latter* days:

**Num 24:14** - "And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what this people will do to your people in the *latter days*."

**Jer 23:20** - The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: *in the latter days* ye shall consider it perfectly.

**Jer 30:24** - The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: *in the latter days* ye shall consider it.

- Term literally means in days after these, later times
- Events are being prophesied in these passages, and the prophet is saying in times after these events you will then know the truth

In later days, later times

# Latter Days

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**Isa 2:2** - Now it shall come to pass in the *latter* days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

**Mic 4:1** - Now it shall come to pass in the *latter* days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.

- Isaiah and Micah passages we have already seen in their first century coming of Messiah's Kingdom – future from the time prophesied, past events to us

# Latter Days

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**Dan 10:14** - Now I am come to make you understand what shall befall your people *in the latter days*: for yet the vision is for many days.

- We have already covered the visions and dreams in Daniel, prophesying the covenant history from the time of exile to the coming of Messiah

**Hos 3:5** - Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness *in the latter days*.

- Propheying the coming of Messiah and turning of Yahweh's people back to Him
- Dispensationalism teaches this is during the Millennium after Messiah's return
- Hopefully you have seen this occurred through Messiah's death, resurrection, and ascension to right hand of the Father in 1<sup>st</sup> Century

# Last Hour

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**I John 2:18 - Little children, *it is the last hour*: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that *it is the last hour*.**

- In terms of timing, John writing in 1<sup>st</sup> century, claimed they were in the last hour
- I also point out the term ‘antichrists’
  - Only used in John’s Epistles
  - Generally plural
  - Refers to those who deny Jesus is the Messiah, come in the flesh

# Last Time

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**Jude 1:17-19 - But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>18</sup> How that they told you there should be mockers *in the last time*, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. <sup>19</sup> These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.**

- **Jude spoke in the present tense, in other words acknowledging he was writing in the last time**

**1 Pet 1:18-21 - Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup> Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest *in these last times* for you, <sup>21</sup> Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

# Latter Times

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**I Tim 4:1-6 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, *that in the latter times* some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; <sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; <sup>3</sup> Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: <sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. <sup>6</sup> If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.**

- Timothy was to put the brethren in remembrance of these things because they were living in a time when these things were happening - the latter times
- Jude and Timothy not speaking about mankind as a whole, but to God's apostate covenant people
- Not that they are not happening today by the way

# Passing Away

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1 Cor 7:29,31 But this I say, brethren, *the time is short*: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; <sup>31</sup> And they that use this world, as not abusing it: *for the fashion of this world passeth away*.

Heb 8:13 - In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. *Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away*.

Heb 12:27 - And this word, Yet once more, signifieth *the removing of those things that are shaken*, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

- Speaking to great shaking and change taking place, current with 1st century writings
- This apocalyptic writing is describing vanishing of Old Covenant and its replacement with the New Covenant

# But What About II Pet 3?

II Pet 3:7, 10-13 - But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; *both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.* <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- God is redeeming, and will redeem, the earth, not destroying it

Describing process of transition from Old to New Covenant. Many Old Covenant things don't make it into New

# II Peter 3

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- **General use of apocalyptic language**
- **Greek scholars argue that true sense of ‘shall be burned up’ (II Pet 3:10) should actually be translated ‘shall be found out’**
  - **More consistent with flood analogy used right before these verses – world after flood still existed, but cleansed and changed**
    - **Peter is saying that God will cleanse the earth as he did in Noah’s day, except with fire instead of water**
  - **More consistent with Peter’s view of Day of the Lord**
    - **Rather than being read as cosmic destruction it should be read as a smelting process from which the world will emerge purified**

- **Consistent with what Paul taught in I Cor 3**

**I Cor 3:13 - each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is**

**Describing process of transition from Old to New Covenant. Many Old Covenant things don't make it into New**

# World

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## **2889. kosmos**

from base of 2865; orderly arrangement, i.e. decoration; by implication, the world (in a wide or narrow sense, including its inhabitants, literally or figuratively (morally)):**--adorning, world.**

- Literally, the physical creation, world, universe

## **165. Aion (eon)**

from the same as 104; properly, an age; by extension, perpetuity (also past); by implication, the world; specially (Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future):**--age, course, eternal, (for) ever(-more), (n-)ever, (beginning of the , while the) world (began, without end**

- Literally, age

# End of the World

**Matt 24:3** - Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the *end of the world*?"

**Matt 28:20** - "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the *end of the world*." Amen.

**I Cor 10:11** - Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, *upon whom the ends of the world* are come.

**Heb 9:25-28** - Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; <sup>26</sup> For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in *the end of the world* hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: <sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- 'World' in all these passages is 'Aion', not Kosmos

# End of the Age

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- In 1<sup>st</sup> Century Judaism there were two ages, the current age and the one to come. The one to come was the Messianic Kingdom age

# Last Days

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**Heb 1:1-2** - God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> Hath in *these last days* spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**Acts 2:16-17** - "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> 'And it shall come to pass in *the last days*, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

- These verses speaking to current events, things happening in their day

# Last Days

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- **The New Testament writers use “last days” and similar expressions to refer to events in their own lifetime**
- **I believe the “last days” were the last days of the Old Covenant, period between crucifixion in 30 A.D. and destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.**
  - **Several NT writers speak of that which is passing away, and being replaced by that which cannot be shaken**
- **Co-opting the term through Dispensational machinations is Biblically untenable**