

# Are These The Last Days?

During a time of crisis many religious people begin to cry out that these are the last days. The idea they convey is, there has never been a time of so much trouble and unrest, and the events of the day are signs the end is near.

The Bible teaches the last days began on Pentecost and will end when Christ returns. Peter marked the beginning when he applied Joel's prophecy to the day of Pentecost. "But THIS is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the LAST DAYS, says God...'" (Acts 2:16-17).

The Hebrew writer said, "God...spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in THESE LAST DAYS spoken to us by His Son..." (Hebrews 1:1-2).

In the Bible there are three eras: the patriarchal, the Mosaical, and the Christian or gospel. The patriarchal age began at creation and closed with the giving of the law of Moses. The Mosaical started at Sinai and ended on Pentecost. The Christian commenced then and will end when Christ returns.

The last days will not contain any signs indicating the end is near. The Bible says, "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). Thus, no one will know when the Lord will return.

Preachers who say there will be signs have twisted the scriptures (2 Peter 3:10-16). This results in many people being filled with fear and anxiety. Rather, the Bible says to be steadfast, serving Jesus and looking forward to His return (2 Peter 3:17-18; Titus 2:11-15).

To prepare for the advent of Christ, the Bible says you must believe and repent of your sins (John 8:24; Acts 17:30-31). Likewise, you must confess Christ and be baptized into Him to wash away your sins (Romans 10:9-13; 6:3-4; Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Steven F. Deaton