

“ARE WE THERE YET?”

JROC

Week 5 – “Last Days” for Israel; “Last Days” for the Church  
November 15, 2020

The Church - the body of Christ. The Greek word, *ekklesia*, for Church is defined as “called out ones.” The Church is comprised of Jewish believers and Gentile believers from many nations.

Eph. 1:22-23 - *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Col. 1:18 - *And He is the head of the body, the church,*

Israel - the ONE nation of Israel – an ethnic people group!

II Sam. 7:23 - *And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?*

Re: God’s plan for man— God created man and gave him dominion over the earth – God created man to represent HIM, God, on earth. Sin entered the world and Satan usurped that dominion. Does that mean that God’s plan for man is thwarted? NO!!

Daniel 7:13-14 - *I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup> Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

The antichrist is seen as the little horn coming out of the Roman empire IN THE FUTURE. Dan. 7:26 – the antichrist’s dominion is taken away and then we read...  
Dan. 7:27 - *Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*  
God’s plan for man to have dominion will NOT be thwarted!

God’s plan for the Church is not thwarted. At the end of the Church Age, God will catch up the Church and we will meet Jesus in the air (John 14:-3; I Thess. 4:15-18; I Cor. 15:51-52.) Nothing else MUST happen ON EARTH before God raptures the Church. Jesus’ coming at any moment.

Does God's plan for Israel change? NO! God's plan is to RESTORE Israel as a nation – for the entire nation of Israel to come to faith in Jesus (Zech. 12:10). Is Israel restored at this time? NO!

Something else must happen....

AND, God's unconditional covenants that He made with Israel – promising land, seed, blessing have not yet been fulfilled.

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It's an unconditional unilateral covenant – God has sworn by Himself (Heb. 6:13) to fulfill those promises. God is not depending upon Israel's obedience. The Abrahamic Covenant, the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant are all unconditional! When will the promises to Israel through these covenants be completely fulfilled? In the Millennial Kingdom!

What is missing in the book of Daniel? The Church! When the Church age ends through the rapture of the Church...we still read of God continuing to deal with Israel during the tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom. THE CHURCH will return with Jesus at His physical Second Coming and the Church will occupy the Millennial Kingdom with RESTORED Israel.

The Biblical term “last days” and the popular term “end times” do not always refer to the same thing. “Last days” and “end times” can refer to the current Church Age, or they can refer to the future culmination of God's plan for Israel. How do we know the difference – the context of the passage we are reading – to whom is the passage written. Who is the readership?

#### END TIMES TERMS (NASB)

We must distinguish between the “last days” of the Church age and the “last days” of Israel's Tribulation.

#### ISRAEL

“latter days”

- Deut. 4:30 – Moses is addressing Israel, *When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice; The latter days are difficult.*
- Deut. 31:29 - *For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you. And evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands.* “Evil” – distress; adversity.
- Dan. 10:14 - *Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come (including Dan. 9:27 which speaks of the tribulation).*

“last days”

- Isa. 2:2 – Millennial Kingdom - *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.*
- Jer. 23:20 – *The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart in the latter days you will understand it perfectly.*

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- Eze. 38:16 - *You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.*
- Hos. 3:5 - *Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days.*
- Micah 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.*
- Acts 2:17 - ‘*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.*

“last day”

- John 6:39-40 - *This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- John 6:44, 54 – *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

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- John 11:24 – *Martha said to Him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’*
- John 12:48 - *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

“latter years”

- Eze. 38:8 – *Gog and Magog War - After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long*

*been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.*

“time of the end”

- Dan. 8:13-17 - foreshadowing of the antichrist - *Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, “How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled underfoot?”* <sup>14</sup> *And he said to me, “For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.* <sup>15</sup> *Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man.* <sup>16</sup> *And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.”* <sup>17</sup> *So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.”*

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- Dan. 12:9 - *And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”*
- Matt. 24:3-31 – the end of the age: tribulation, restoration of Israel, & Second Coming, gathering of Jewish people into Millennial Kingdom!
- Dan. 12:1-2, 4 - *At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.* <sup>2</sup> *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”*
- Dan. 12:9 - *Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

“end of the days/the age”

- Dan. 12:13 - *But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.*
- Matt. 24:3-31 – the end of the age: tribulation, restoration of Israel, & Second Coming, gathering of Jewish people into Millennial Kingdom!

THE CHURCH

“last days/last times/last hour”

- Heb. 1:2 - *as in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.* During Jesus' first coming.
- I Pet. 1:20 - *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.* During Jesus' first coming.
- I John 2:18 - *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.* Not "the" antichrist; therefore, not the tribulation timeframe.

"later times"

- I Tim. 4:1 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.* Apostasy within the Church.

"last days"

- II Tim. 3:1-7 - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!* Doesn't sound like the tribulation!

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- James 5:3 - *You have heaped up treasure in the last days.* Greed.
- II Pet. 3:3 - *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts. 'Where is the promise of His coming?'* Scoffing at God.

"last time"

- Jude 18 - *how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.* Apostasy in the Church.