

ISAIAH 02:02

LAST DAYS, LAST TIMES, END OF WORLD

*In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. **Isaiah 02: 02***

What does the term the last days mean? What period of human history launched *the last days*? When Isaiah used the term some seven hundred years before Christ, *the last days* were out in the future. Scripture says the following about *the last days*:

1. The prophets referred to a future period of human history that would be known as *the last days*.

Isa 2:2-4 *In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more.*

Hos 3:5 *"Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and his blessings in the last days"*

Micah 4:1-4 *In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.*

2. The disciples of Christ and Christ Himself discussed *the end times* of human history. The disciples actually asked Christ, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?" In answering their question, Christ used the occasion to reveal some of the events that are to take place on earth during *the last days*. (See notes, Mt. 24:1-25:46.)

The point to note is that the time-frame of *the last days* being discussed by Christ stretched from His day up to the very end of the world. His answer to the apostles suggests this fact: Christ was saying that His coming launched *the last days*. The signs and events the apostles were to experience would be duplicated in the lives of believers down through the generations. These signs and events — at least many of them — would lead right up to the end of the world. Note the beginning of Christ’s discussion in Mathew chapters 24-25:

Mat 24:03-14 *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains [sorrows]. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.”*

3. The New Testament definitely says that *the last days* began when Christ came to earth. Since Jesus Christ’s coming, history is in its last stage. Right now, the time between Christ’s first coming and the day of final judgment is called the age of *grace* — the age when God’s mercy and grace are flowing out to the world through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. How long *these last days* will last is not known. The point to remember is this fact: from God’s perspective, this period of history from the sending of His Son to the world right up to the end of human history is known as...

- *these last days* (Heb. 1:2)
- *the last time* (1 Pet. 1:5; 1 Jn. 2:18; Jude 1:18)
- *the last days* (Acts 2:17; 2 Tim. 3:1; 2 Pet. 3:3). □