

I. "THINGS PROPHESED CONCERNING THE LAST DAYS"

In the last days...

A. THERE'S GOING TO BE SCOFFERS WHO WILL DENY THE LORD'S COMING (II Pet. 3:3-9).

1. Notice these individuals will walk after their own lusts or desires. In other words they will indulge in their own fleshly appetites without any fear or regard of any judgment from God. They will advocate permissiveness and sinful indulgence by their own sinful example (3).
2. These scoffers will deny the promise of the Lord's coming meaning the fulfillment of the Lord coming to judge sin and immorality. The subject is probably not the rapture itself but God's judgment which will come at the end of the church age (4).
3. These scoffers will no doubt believe the lie of evolution that since they evolved they have no moral responsibility to a Creator. They will say, as it were, that the preaching of judgment to come is nonsense. "We can live as we please and we have nothing to fear because of what we do. And what the Bible says has no bearing on us. We can set our own standards of conduct."
4. These scoffers will base their denials on the law of uniformitarianism which states that the processes existing in nature follow uniform laws and account for all the changes that have taken place. In other words they will deny any supernatural interventions and reject any facts which would substantiate any cataclysmic event. They will say in essence from old times until now, "everything is the same" (4).
5. These scoffers will be willfully ignorant meaning they will deliberately ignore all the facts that substantiate the flood which was a time of divine intervention as a judgment for man's wickedness (5-6). Peter argues that the heavens and the earth were created by the Word of God and when God created the earth it was out of a world covered by water. Peter said this same world perished with water (5-6). Note Heb. 11:3 tells us how this world came into existence and where it came from. Note also Gen. 1:2,9 which states that the world was first covered by water. It is significant to note that many groups of people have a story of a flood which has been handed down through their folklore.
6. Peter states "by the same Word" or that which created the heavens and the earth in the beginning now keeps them reserved for a fiery destruction and judgment of ungodly men (7). Note what Peter says will happen in 3:10. This will come when the day of the Lord closes at the end of the millennial reign.
7. Peter encourages his readers about why God is delaying His judgment upon sinful men (8,9).
 - a. First of all, Peter points out that God is not bound by time as we are (1). This means just because the Lord has not intervened in judgment yet, it doesn't mean He

won't fulfill His promise.

- b. In verse 9 Peter tells us why the Lord delays or extends His grace – it is so that men will be saved.
8. Notice “the Day of the Lord” refers to a period of time when God intervenes in the affairs of men in judgment. It will begin when the church is raptured and it will close with the cleansing of the heavens and earth after the millennial reign.

B. THERE'S GOING TO BE MANY WHO WILL DENY THAT THE LORD JESUS IS THE CHRIST (I Jn. 2:18, 22).

1. The word Christ means “the anointed of God.” This was the question of the Pharisees (Jn. 1:19, 20).
2. Notice believing Jesus to be the Christ was the testimony of the woman of Samaria and others (Jn. 4:41, 42), of Peter and the other disciples (Jn. 6:69).
3. Notice to believe that Jesus is the Christ is to believe that He is also the Son of God. This was John's purpose in writing his gospel account (Jn. 20:31) and this is the testimony of those who are saved (Acts 8:37; Jn. 9:22, 35-38). Those who do not believe that Jesus is the Christ will die in their sins (Jn. 8:23, 24).
4. Notice the fulfillment of these Scriptures is seen in those who view Jesus as only human and not divine. It is also evident in cultic groups which view Him as an angelic being and not as the Son of God.

C. THERE'S GOING TO BE AN APOSTASY WITHIN THE SPHERE OF CHRISTIANITY (II Tim. 3:1-5).

1. This means first of all there will be professing Christians who will be characterized by all kinds of sinful conduct.
 - a. Some will be lovers of themselves (2). The genuine Christian will be characterized by love for the Lord and others (I Jn. 4:19; Jn. 13:35).
 - b. Some will be covetous or “money-lovers” (2). The genuine Christian ought to be pursuing godliness not gain (I Tim. 6:6-10).
 - c. Some will be boasters and proud or seeking vain glory (2). The genuine Christian ought to be characterized by humility (I Pet. 5:5,6; Phil. 2:3,4).
 - d. Some will be blasphemers (2). They will say things Christians ought not say in reference to God (Eph. 4:29).

- e. Some will be disobedient to parents (2). A young Christian should be in subjection to his parents (Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20).
 - f. Some will be unthankful (2). This means they will show little or no gratitude to God. A genuine Christian will show a measure of gratitude to the Lord (Heb. 13:15).
 - g. Some will be characterized by unholiness (2). There will be no separation in their lives. The genuine Christian ought to live a separated life in this world (Titus 2:11-14).
 - h. Some will be characterized by unnatural affections (3). Instead of a man having affections for a woman and vice versa they will demonstrate affections for the same sex. Instead of a mother having an instinctive affection for her child, she will leave it. Note Rom. 1:26,27. A genuine Christian will follow God's directives concerning family and marriage (I Cor. 7:2).
 - i. Some will be trucebreakers or unwilling to make peace or be reconciled (3). A genuine Christian ought to be willing to forgive and be reconciled with others (Eph. 4:32).
 - j. Some will be false accusers or slanderers of others (3). They will spread gossip and hurt others. A genuine Christian should be edifying other believers (I Cor. 14:12,26).
 - k. Some will be incontinent or lack moral restraint and control of sinful passions (3). A genuine Christian ought to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and not the flesh (Gal. 5:16).
 - l. Some will be fierce or un-gentle with little or no care for others (3). A genuine Christian will not go about hurting others but will manifest love (Rom. 5:5).
 - m. Some will be "no lovers of good" (3). A genuine Christian ought to love what is right and good and not wickedness (Titus 1:8).
 - n. Some will be traitors (4). This means to betray another. A genuine Christian should be willing to lay down his life for others (I Jn. 3:16).
 - o. Some will be rash and assuming and high-minded (4). This means self-willed and haughty instead of God-willed and meek. A genuine Christian ought to seek to do God's will and display a meek spirit (Eph. 4:1-3; 5:17).
 - p. Some will be pleasure-lovers more than God-lovers(4). A genuine Christian ought to love the Lord above the things of the world (I Jn. 2:15-17).
2. Note while all these profess Christianity and display a form of godliness they will all have one thing in common – a sinful lifestyle. They will have the talk but not the walk. Their actions will speak louder than their words. They may seem to have had some

reformation but they will lack regeneration and a genuine relationship with the Lord. There will be no evidence of the power of God in their lives (5). Note the Bible says that a Christian ought to depart from iniquity (II Tim. 2:19).

D. THERE'S GOING TO BE MANY FALSE TEACHERS AND A TURNING AWAY FROM SOUND TEACHING (I Jn. 4:1-3; II Tim. 3:13).

1. Notice sound teaching is teaching substantiated by the Word of God. That means doctrines and practices not in line with God's Word are unsound and unhealthy. Examples of this in our day are women preaching and divorced men in the ministry.
2. This means people won't want to hear sound or healthy teachings. They will want teachers who will tickle their ears with saying that sound funny and pleasant but do little to build up believers in the things of God. The order of our day is pragmatism and worldly principles to make church services pleasant for the unsaved.

E. THERE'S GOING TO BE A PROGRESSION OF EVIL AS THE AGE COMES TO A CLOSE (II Tim. 3:13).

This means moral standards will continue to decline. What used to be viewed as sinful and shameful is now common-place and accepted. Couples living together out of wedlock, homosexual relationships, same-sex marriages are all examples and things are going to get worse if the Lord tarries His coming.

F. THERE'S GOING TO BE A SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS WHICH WILL CHARACTERIZE THE CHURCH AS A WHOLE (Rev. 3:14-19).

1. The church as a whole will be characterized by material prosperity. There will be a great increase in material wealth which will lead to pride and self-sufficiency.
2. The church as a whole will lack spiritual discernment and be void of spirituality that genuine believers possess. In other words buildings will be filled and programs will be implemented by those who are lost. Notice the average church in our day is worldly, disobedient and disassociated with Scripture mandates which the Lord gave to the church.

G. THERE'S AN APPLICATION FOR BELIEVERS AS WE SEE THESE THINGS COMING TO PASS – It should make us realize that the coming of the Lord is getting closer. That being the case we should also redeem the time which we have left.

Notice some principles: If God judged the wicked of Noah's day, then He will judge the wickedness of men in our day. If God judged the homosexuals of Lot's day, so will He judge those of our day. Despite what's happening in the last days and how men try to explain away their sinful conduct, judgment is coming!