

## Another Thought About The Last Days

For many years .... when I was a 'mid-Acts-hyper-dispensationalist' .... I was taught to divide the Bible into sections, namely

- 'time past' .... when God dealt with Israel as a nation,
- 'but now' .... (to mid-Acts-ers) only Paul's epistles,

and • the 'ages to come' .... the future (which was divided again .... always keeping Israel and saints saved through Paul's ministry separate).

Without realizing it, I allowed a man to define the terms by manipulating the scriptures. What a **C**unning **R**oyal **J**ester he is!

One-by-one I discovered their doctrines are wrong. Now I also realize that their entire dispensational system of what-they-call 'consistent literalism' is not right. So I pay closer attention to the context and I look for God to reveal the correct meaning of His Word by using scripture to interpret scripture. Now I apply the basic concept that God's teachings will be in agreement and harmony with the message of the whole Bible. I understand that God prophesied with symbolic representations, types, and imagery.

As 'mid-Acts-hyper-dispensationalists' .... we drove a stake at the words 'in time past' in Eph 2: 11, but we never investigated the phrase outside of Paul's epistles. Now I see that God made a distinction between

'time past' when He spoke by the prophets ....

and 'the last days' when He spoke by Jesus Christ ....

which, very importantly to notice, began at His 1st advent.

Thus, 'the last days' cover the time Jesus was on earth 'speaking' ....  
and the establishment of His Millennial kingdom and the New Testament  
in His blood, which began at His death and resurrection,  
when the Covenant became strong (Heb 9:15-17) and effective:

**Heb 1:1-2** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners  
spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 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;

'The last days' are the whole New Testament period .... the dispensa-  
tion of grace (Eph 3:2, John 1:17) that was prophesied to come (1 Pet 1:10)  
concerning Christ's Kingdom extending to the nations. Being filled with the  
Spirit .... Peter said 'the last days' were happening right then at Pentecost:

**Acts 2:16-17** But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of  
my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream  
dreams:

Mockers will come (Jude 1:18) as 'the last days' continue until Christ comes:

**2 Peter 3:3-4** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days  
scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?  
for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from  
the beginning of the creation.

Concerning Judah and Jerusalem, the prophet Isaiah saw a picture of a time of peace and a place of safety in God's kingdom on Mount Zion:

**Isa 2:2** (Hold your place here) And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. (Micah 4:1)

Isaiah raised the banner for the coming Messiah .... when the knowledge of God will fill the earth .... and no nation will be exempt from His salvation:

**Isa 11:9-10** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Hab 2:14)

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Paul applied this very prophecy in Isaiah to the dispensation of grace:

**Rom 15:12** And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

The knowledge of the LORD has spread over all the nations of the earth:

**Col 1:9-10** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

God's mountain, God's house, Zion, Jerusalem, are pictures of His kingdom:

**Isa 2:3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Joy to the world! The LORD is come! Let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare Him room! New Jerusalem is His bride, His city:

**Psa 48:1-2** Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion,  
on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. (Matt 5:35)

The mountain of the LORD we attend .... is not the 'physical' one ....

but the 'spiritual' one:

**Heb 12:18, 22** For ye are not come unto the mount  
that might be touched, and that burned with fire,  
nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion,  
and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,  
and to an innumerable company of angels,

The kingdom wherein we serve is not 'earthly' or 'political' .... but 'spiritual':

**Rom 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink;  
but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

We are members in a 'spiritual' house (Eph 2:20-22, 1 Cor 3:9, Rev 3:12),  
wherein we offer up 'spiritual' sacrifices (Phil 4:18, 1 Pet 2:5, Psa 51:17) ....  
the only kind that are acceptable to God. He will never again accept animal  
sacrifices. They were a shadow of the better sacrifice (Heb 10:1,6,11;  
13:6). Have you entered the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22)? Do you suffer  
for it (2 Thess 1:5)? The only place of real stability is in God's kingdom:

**Heb 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved,  
(Dan 7:27) let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably (Rom  
12:1-2, Eph 5:10) with reverence and godly fear:

Dispensationalists believe that **Isa 2:2-4** is a passage that teaches about Jesus' COMING kingdom .... not His PRESENT one, which they refuse to even acknowledge. They claim that these prophecies are literal.

If they were 'literally literal' .... then they must admit that the 'future' weapons of war .... will reverse from satellite technology and radar-guided missiles .... to being short-range swords and spears again .... and then from that, back to horse-drawn or hand-held implements of agriculture. But this is not the case. These scriptures teach the new testament kingdom:

**Isa 2:4** And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

God appointed judges in the old testament who were set up as the rulers then. In the new testament, Christ brings judgment to the nations by setting up His kingdom among all nations of the world .... so it will no longer be primarily for the Jews of national Israel.

Satan had rule over the nations .... and offered it to Jesus in exchange for worship. Jesus responded to the temptation by quoting the scripture:

**Luke 4:5-8** And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for **it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

**1 Cor 2:7-8** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew:

for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Through His own death .... Jesus rendered Satan idle.

Christ broke the devil's 'death-grip' hold:

**Heb 2:14-15** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Psa 102:20)

Jesus abolished Satan's control over his prisoners (Isa 61:1, Luke 4:18),

so he could no longer hold them in spiritual captivity:

**Mark 3:27** No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. (Isa 49:22-25)

We are not under the dominion of sin (Rom 6:14); now we are free to serve:

**Isa 42:6-7** I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. (Isa 49:9)

Those who know freedom (Rom 8:2, 2 Cor 3:17) will NEVER AGAIN

return to the old testament system of law:

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free,  
ye shall be free indeed.

**Gal 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

At His 1st coming .... Jesus Christ took away the 1st covenant ....

the old testament .... to establish the 2nd covenant .... the new testament:

**Heb 10:9-10** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.

He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (the better sacrifice - Heb 9:23-26)

Sanctified saints will NEVER AGAIN return to the sacrifices of animals.

**2 Tim 3:1-5** This know also, that in the last days  
perilous times shall come.

- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves,  
covetous,  
boasters,  
proud,  
blasphemers,  
disobedient to parents,  
unthankful,  
unholy,
- 3 Without natural affection,  
trucebreakers,  
false accusers,  
incontinent,  
fierce,  
despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors,  
heady,  
highminded,  
lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:  
from such turn away.**

God's people will have inner peace to endure through the fierce  
seasons of life and remain faithful unto death .... in the last days.

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*