Question

Are We in the LAST DAYS?

If so, Last Days of What ?

- Some of you are 50-70 years old and they've been telling you that every event that happens from World War II to the Korean War, to the Vietnam War, to the Cold War, to the war in Iraq, every time, what do they say? This is it. These are the Last Days.

Last Days of What ?

- Last Days of the World ?
- Last Days of Time ?
- Last Days of Church ?

  - Biblical Last Days were none of the Above
  - Biblical Last Days always referred to the Last Days of Old Covenant (Sinai Covenant)

Who has the Final Say ?

- Fallible Men ?
- Church Fathers ?
- **Apostles** ?
- **Jesus Christ** ?

Gospel is Simple, The Study of End Times is Hard

We will not go too deep today, but if we can address the question of Last Days, it addresses a lot of other related issues

Sound Hermeneutics produces Sound Understanding

- Exegesis not Eisegesis

  Exegesis is the critical explanation and interpretation of a text, focusing on discovering the author's original, intended meaning.

  Eisegesis, which is when a reader imposes their own subjective ideas onto a text

- Audience Relevance and Time Statements

- Scripture Interpret Scripture

Are We in the LAST DAYS

A Biblical Understanding of Last Days

Let's Examine the Biblical Evidence for the Last Days

- We will set aside our pre-suppositions
- We will survey the term “Last Days” contextually
- We will compare and contrast the prophecies concerning the Last Days and their fulfillment

1. Last Days according to Jacob

Genesis 49:1, 8–10 (NKJV)

- And Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather together, that I may tell you ***what shall befall you in the last days***.”

- Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father’s children shall bow down before you.

- The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **Until Shiloh comes**; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Genesis 49:1, 8–10 (NKJV)

- **The scepter and the staff:** The scepter and ruler's staff are ancient symbols of royal authority and kingship. It says that the lineage of kings will come from the tribe of Judah. The prophecy was historically fulfilled with the line of King David, a member of the tribe of Judah.
- **Until Shiloh comes:** "Shiloh" is understood as title for the Messiah, meaning "Peaceful One" or "He to whom it belongs". The verse suggests that the kingly authority of Judah would be maintained until the ultimate ruler, the JESUS CHRIST, appears.
- **Obedience of the peoples:** This final phrase expands Judah's destined rule beyond the borders of Israel to include all "peoples," or nations. This foreshadows a universal, eternal reign of Jesus Christ

Genesis 49:1, 8–10 (NKJV)

- Jacob told his sons – the house of Israel that in their last days - Siloh will come – and the obedience of all the Nations will be to him.
- Siloh = Jesus
- Jesus was to emerge in the last days of Israel – In other words, the ministry of Christ was to be in ***the last days***
- Last Days according to Jacod were last days of Israel, not of the world.

The Writer of Hebrews Confirms Jacob’s Prophecy

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV)

- God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has **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.

- God spoke to Israel through prophets in the past
- But in the Last Days He Spoke through His Son Jesus Christ

- Writer of Hebrew (Paul) affirms Jesus Christ rendered his Ministry that in the last days - notice he says "In These Last Days"
- Jesus's ministry began in the last days of the Sinai (old) Covenant and his death and resurrection ushered the new covenant.

Progression from Old Covenant to New Covenant

- Jesus Died
- Jesus Rose Again
- Jesus came in Judgement in AD 70 when the temple was destroyed and the old covenant practices were done away with forever

The Last Days of the Bible are not the last days of the world, but the last days of Old Covenant and Israel.

Hebrews 8:13 (NKJV)

- In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made **the first** obsolete. **Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.**

- Old Covenant → obsolete → ready to vanish
- The Temple was destroyed in AD 70 that marked the fulfillment of the Sinai covenant, and its practices
- New Covenant established through Christ
- There was a transition period where the old covenant and the new covenant were on the scene and that's our New Testament.
- What was growing old and vanishing away and obsolete for the first century believers, for us, it has vanished away.

2. Joel foretold that
The Holy Spirit will be Poured Out in the Last Days

Joel 2:28

Joel 2:28 – “And it shall come to pass **afterward**, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

Joel 2:28

afterward,

אַחֲרֵי־ (’a·ḥă·rê-)

Preposition

Strong's 310: The hind or following part

- **The word “Afterward” is translated from the Hebrew Word ACHAR – which means - the Hind Part – the End Part – the Later Part -**

Is Joel’s Prophecy regarding the Last days in Our Future or in Our Past ?

Peter Confirms Joel's Prophecy
Acts 2:14-36

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

17 "'In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.

Peter Confirms Joel's Prophecy
Acts 2:14-36

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Holy Spirit was poured out in the Last Days.

Food for Thought - 1

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit marked the last days of the Sinai Covenant, not the New Covenant, which began with the Spirit's arrival.

If the Holy Spirit was poured out in the last days 2,000 years ago, how can we still be in those last days today? The Sinai Covenant ended, and the New Covenant—the Covenant of the Spirit—began.

Food for Thought - 2

- Joel’s prophecy was about the last days of Sinai covenant.
- If the last days are in our future, then we must still be under the Sinai(old) covenant as the fulfillment of a covenantal prophecy cannot take place if the covenant no longer exist.

Cessationist Dilemma

- In the last days, God says,
  I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
  Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
  your young men will see visions,
  your old men will dream dreams.
  18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
  I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
  and they will prophesy.

- Prophecy, tongues, visions = signs in last days
- Ceased when Old Covenant ended
- Gifts in the Last Days Validated early church during transition

If the gifts have ceased, it's a telling sign that we are not in the last days, and those in our past. Most Christians today apart from the charismatic churches believe the gifts ceased, and they ceased in the first century.

3. Jesus Said the Pharisees lived in the Last Days

Daniel was a prophet of Judah which was one of the twelve tribes, which means he's under the Sinai covenant, this prophecy was made during the Sinai covenant and therefore would come to pass during the Sinai covenant before the Sinai covenant ended.

Daniel 2:27-28

- Daniel interpreted **Nebuchadnezzar's dream that foretold about the Kingdom that will endure forever**

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men,* the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. **28** But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar *what will be in the latter days (last days)*

Daniel 2:44-45

44 And in the days of these kings ***the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed***; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall [n]break in pieces and [o]consume all these kingdoms, ***and it shall stand forever***. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that ***the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands***, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.

In Daniel 2, the prophet describes a vision of a stone, cut without hands, striking a statue and establishing God's kingdom in the "latter days" (achar, meaning "last part").

Matthew 21:

40 “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?”

41 They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and
lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will [g]render to him the fruits in their seasons.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the LORD’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

43 “Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they [h]perceived that He was speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes, because they took Him for a prophet.

→ Daniel explains of the Stone Cut without hands in the last days

→ Jesus refers to the same Stone in Matt 21:44

→ Jesus, in Matthew 21, applies this prophecy to the Pharisees and chief priests, telling them the kingdom would be taken from them and given to another nation. The stone, representing God’s kingdom, would crush those who opposed it. The Pharisees understood Jesus was speaking of them (Matthew 21:45), meaning this judgment would occur in their time, not thousands of years later.

Now Let's talk about Wars and Rumors of War

Matthew 23:33

Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify... that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth... *Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

- Judgment on 1st century generation
- Their rejection brought covenantal end (Deut. 31:39)

Matthew 24:1-3

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

- Prediction: Destruction of Temple, not world
- Disciples ask: 'End of the age (aeon)'

- Jesus warned disciples of coming conflicts
- Applied to their generation (not ours)
- Pax Romana = rare wars → shocking sign

- Jacob spoke of the Last Days that were the Last Days of Old Covenant (OC) Israel
- Paul Spoke of the Last Days of OC Israel
- Joel Spoke of the Last Days of OC Israel
- Jesus told that the pharisees were living in the Last days
- Last Days = last days of Old Covenant Israel

- Last Days = last days of Old Covenant Israel
- New Covenant in Christ is eternal
- Jesus is final Priest, Temple, Sacrifice
- Our hope rests in Him alone

So what changes if we are not in Last Day ?

- Embrace a fearless faith: The last days ended in AD 70, freeing us from apocalyptic anxiety and empowering us to live with hope and purpose in God's unending Messianic age.
- See the world through God's love: Understanding the last days as fulfilled transforms others from targets of judgment into recipients of grace, inspiring compassion over fear.
- Build, don't abandon: The old mindset of "don't polish brass on a sinking ship" is obsolete—God's kingdom calls us to shape a thriving world, not escape a doomed one.
- **Find joy in the present**: With the last days behind us, we can face life's challenges with the unshakable confidence of Romans 8:31—"If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- Live with eternal purpose: The fulfilled promises of the last days mean we're not waiting for the end but actively participating in God's redemptive work today.