

Episode #429 Bins for Bible Prophecies 3 – The Last Days

I. The Word of God contains many passages wherein Scriptures predict future events. There is a need to properly order the predictive passages of Scripture. Lord Bacon called this “sorting prophetic material.” We can compare this to sorting screws into bins. We need “bins for Bible prophecies.” We can get these by establishing the future time periods of Scripture, and then sorting any given prophecy into the proper one of these bins.

II. In our first message, we established four future bins, “The Tribulation Period,” “The Thousand Years,” “The Little Season,” and “The New Heavens and New Earth.” In our last message, we realized that certain predictive prophecies commonly placed in “The Thousand Years” cannot possibly fit there. Isaiah 2:1-4 takes place in “the last days.” We now wish to examine the various passages in which this phrase is found to discover what it means.

III. Concordance of “last days.”

A. The Hebrew word for “last” in “last days” is *achariyth*. It occurs 61 times, but only in 14 does it have the word “days” after it.

1. Genesis 49:1. Jacob’s blessing on his sons included a prophecy of what would happen to them in the last (*achariyth*) days.
2. Numbers 24:14. What Israel will do to Balak’s people in the last days.
3. Deuteronomy 4:30. Israel will be unfaithful to the LORD and come to distress in the last days.
4. Deuteronomy 31:29. Again they will turn away and evil will befall them.
5. Isaiah 2:2. Glorious things will happen in the last (*achariyth*) days.
6. Jeremiah 23:20. The LORD will perform His angry thoughts, and Israel will understand why in the last days.
7. Jeremiah 30:24. Israel and Judah will consider His anger in the last days.
8. Jeremiah 48:47. The LORD will do good to Moab in the last days.
9. Jeremiah 49:39. The LORD will restore Elam in the last days.
10. Ezekiel 38:16. Gog and its allies attack Israel, but the LORD is hallowed when He acts against them in the last days.
11. Daniel 2:28. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was given to him by God to let him know what would happen in the last (*achariyth*) days.
12. Daniel 10:14. The hierophant came to make Daniel understand what would happen to his people of Israel in the last (*achariyth*) days.
13. Hosea 3:5. The sons of Israel return to seek the LORD their God and David their king, and fear and serve the LORD in the last (*achariyth*) days.
14. Micah 4:1. Similar to Isaiah 2:2, speaks of wonderful things in the last days.

B. The Greek word for “last” in “last days” is *eschatos*. We get our word eschatology (the study of last things, speaking of the study of future prophecy) from this word. Again we will examine a concordance of the 11 times it appears with “days.”

1. John 6:39-40, 44. Christ will raise up both THINGS (verse 39) and PEOPLE (verses 40 and 44) that belong to Him at the last (*eschatos*) day.
2. John 7:37. The last, great day of the Feast of Tabernacles.
3. John 11:24. Lazarus would rise again in the resurrection at the last day.
4. John 12:48. Christ’s word He has spoken will judge the one who did not receive it in the last (*eschatos*) day.

5. Acts 2:17. Quoting Joel 2:28, where “last” is the Hebrew *achar*. This is a radical statement, that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh!
 6. II Timothy 3:1. The last days will be dangerously fierce. This is a very different description than in Acts 2:17! How can this be?
 7. Hebrews 1:2. The writer of Hebrews makes the last days already present!
 8. James 5:3. These rich men had gathered wealth in the last (*eschatos*) days.
 9. II Peter 3:3. Scoffers will come in the last days, acting out of their lusts.
- C. It is clear that all occurrences of “last days” do not refer to the same period of time. Yet none of these occurrences set forth the character of the Millennium.

IV. What Does “Last Days” Mean?

- A. We think of “last” as meaning “that’s all there is,” like speaking of my “last dollar.” That is not what it means in Scripture, as Isaiah 2:2, Acts 2:17, II Timothy 3:1, and Hebrews 1:2 will show. None of these are the last days the earth will experience.
- B. The Hebrew and corresponding Greek word mean, basically, outcome or result. This can be seen in passages where it is not translated last, like these:
 1. Psalm 37:37 (future, NKJV). The outcome of his blameless uprightness.
 2. Proverbs 20:21 (end). Clearly the outcome or result of his inheritance.
 3. Proverbs 24:14 (prospect). A positive outcome from the knowing wisdom.
 4. Proverbs 24:20 (prospect). Cannot be translated “end,” as this would make the first and second statement completely contradict each other!
 5. Proverbs 29:21 (in the end). Clearly a result, not the end of his life.
 6. Jeremiah 29:11 (future). A result in accordance with their hope.
- C. Matthew 12:45. Shows that *eschatos* can mean “result” as well. Not his last state!
- D. Since “last” means result or outcome, the “last days” might be called the “resultant days.” They are the outcome of all that has come before.
 1. Isaiah 2 is the result of all God’s work to save and redeem Israel and the world that He has accomplished in the past.
 2. II Timothy 3:1-8 is the result of God’s long dealing with men in grace and letting them go their own, evil ways.
 3. Paul and Isaiah do not contradict. They are talking about the days that result from two different things! Isaiah’s last days follow Paul’s. We are living in Paul’s last days. Isaiah’s are still future.
 4. Next, to understand future events, we will examine the phrase “the Day of the Lord.”

V. Conclusion: The “last days” of Isaiah 2 are an important future time that will be glorious. This is not negated by II Timothy 3, since the phrase “last days” refers to the days resulting from something that came before. The glorious last days of Isaiah 2 are the outcome of a completely different thing than the terrible last days of II Timothy 3. Therefore the “Last Days” of Isaiah 2 are something we should all long for and look forward to. May they come soon!