

PRAYER STUDY 23

“Last Days”

2nd Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days, perilous times will come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without Natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than of god, having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof; from such turn away.

LAST DAYS TERMS

1. **BABYLON:** Babylon means confusion (by mixing). It was literally a city in Iraq (Persia) noted for materialism and sensual pleasure and located just south of modern day Baghdad. It was the political and religious capitol of Babylonia, and according to Genesis 10:10, Babylon was founded by Nimrod, the son of Cush and Semiramis. Nimrod became the leader of Babylon after all the people were dispersed following the Tower of Babel incident. Babylon became Satan's headquarters under Nimrod's leadership. Nimrod married his own mother and pushed astrology and the occult as the religions of Babylon. Babylon types the world system. Satan is the prince of this world system (Ephesians 2:2), who often comes as an Angel of Light (2nd Corinthians 11:14). In the Last Days, there will be great tribulation. False Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Matthew 24:21-24). The mark of the beast or his name or number (666) is to be marked on the right hand or forehead. Most likely, this is not a literal mark but a way of thinking and doing business that causes us to get caught-up in the Babylonia world system. People will become obsessed with fantasy (sensuous and otherwise), materialism, and money. Even the elect can get caught-up in this way of thinking if we do not renew our minds with the Word of God. We must pray against this demonic world system. Jeremiah 50 and 51 tell us how to prophetically intercede against Babylon.

“I want to see Israel marching, I want to hear the kingdom call,
I want to see Zion's mountain, I want to see great Babylon fall;
I want to see Jesus reigning, upon King David's royal throne.
O won't that be a glorious sight to see when Israel comes marching
home.”

2. **DAY OF THE LORD:** The Day of the Lord is that time between the age of evil in which we presently live and which will be destroyed and the golden age of peace and justice, the future Millennial Kingdom to come. The Day of the Lord is a time of fearful trouble central to the birth pangs of the new heaven and earth, the fall of the old order and the ushering in of the new. The Day of the Lord will be a wonderful time for the people of God for we will be protected. We may suffer from the ravages of men, but the Lord will keep us from His wrath. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. It will be a fearful day for many. It is a day of the Lord's vengeance and almost upon us. It will come as destruction from the Almighty, a day of wrath and fierce anger, trouble and distress, a day of gloom and thick darkness for the proud, the rich, and the lofty. The haughty will be made low. Mighty men shall cry bitterly, and it will cause distress and destruction to those that are blind to the ways of the Lord because of their sin. By this time, the Church has been through sifting, the reapers have been called, and Babylon has been exposed but yet still exerts her influence. The Bride will come out of her closet and the Bridegroom is ready to greet her. This is the time of the fullness of the latter rain, the final unity of God's people, the repentance Church ...

Jay Atkinson

The Latter Rain

Note that the Day of the Lord is a period of time. It comes as a thief in the night. The scripture emphasizes that many in the church will be asleep and unprepared. The Words says that they that sleep, sleep in the night. This is when the thief comes. We must wake-up from our spiritual slumber, and be ready. Many think we have already entered the beginnings of this day.

3. **THE FORMER AND LATTER RAIN:** (James 5:7-8) Rain in the word represents revival, refreshing, the outpouring of the Spirit and the Word. Seasonal rainfall, the former rain and latter rain, are a reference to the onset and termination of the rainy season and are important prophetic symbols of the Last Days. The Jews believe that rain is a source of blessing that comes from God Himself, from the heavens. The Baal worshipers associated Baal with springs, wells, and streams, but only Yahweh was the rain giver(Jeremiah 14:22), for can "any among the false gods of the nations...bring rain?" This challenge was vindicated by Elijah before the priest of Baal(1 Kings

18:17-40). Rain is the first of blessings promised to Jacob's land(Genesis 27:28) and to Israel(Deuteronomy 28:12). The decent of rain is likened to the blessings of the kingdom(Psalm 72: 6-7). In contrast, the presence of clouds and wind without rain is likened to a man who "boasts of a gift he does not give"(Proverbs 25:14) which is fake and phony "appearance" religion. The former rain usually begins in mid or late October but may be delayed until January. These rains are the seed planting rains and cause a fall in temperature and produce a brilliance in the sky. In Palestine, plowing is done after the early rains have softened the earth.(The plowman represents the evangelist.) The farmer must wait for the rains before he can plow the ground. Job said, "They waited for me as for the rain"(Job 29:23). Jeremiah described lack of rain: "There was no rain in the earth, the ploughmen were ashamed; they covered their heads"(Jeremiah 14:4). Once the rain has come, the industrious farmer will start his plowing. "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold"(Proverbs 20:4).(How many refuse to evangelize because of inconvenience or being out of their comfort zones?) Such a man will retreat into his house and enjoy the warmth of his fire, but he will miss the harvest. The latter or spring rain or harvest rain begins between April and early May. Latter rain showers are the last showers of the rainy season. The wheat harvest takes place in May so these rains are associated with harvest. By the middle of August the fruit is gathered, and from that time until the former rains, the weather is scorching hot and dry, much like a Georgia Indian summer. Nothing can more expressively represent spiritual blessings than copious showers after this trying time of heat and drought.

4. **THE LAST DAYS:** The Last Days refers to the final end of time of the church on earth. It includes the entire period of time between the first and the second comings of Christ. From the very day our Lord rose from the dead, these were the last days. During these last days in which we now live, says Paul, there will come recurrent cycles of distress. We are experiencing such times right now when people long for peace but are beset with anxiety about the future. In the closing part of chapter 3 and in chapter 4 of II Timothy, Paul shows Timothy the twofold way out of all these snares of the Last Days: (1)patience in suffering and (2) persistence in truth. He tells Timothy to preach the Word-be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction(Timothy 4:1-2).

PRAYER STUDY 23

“Babylon”

JEREMIAH 50

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O, won’t that be a glorious sight to see
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Babylon means confusion (by mixing). It was literally a city in Iraq (Persia) noted for materialism and sensual pleasure and located just south of modern day Baghdad. It was the political and religious capital of Babylonia and, according to Genesis 10:10, founded by Nimrod. Nimrod became the leader of Babylon after all the people were dispersed following the Tower of Babel incident. Babylon became Satan’s headquarters under Nimrod’s leadership. Nimrod was the son of Cush and Semiramis and later married his mother. Astrology and the occult became the religions of Babylon.

Babylon types the world system. Satan is the prince of this world system (Ephesians 2:2), who often comes as an Angel of Light (2nd Corinthians 11:14). In the Last Days, there will be great tribulation. False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Matthew 24:21-24). The mark of the beast or his name or number (666) is to be marked on the right hand or forehead. Most likely, this is not a literal mark but a way of thinking and doing business that causes us to get caught-up in the Babylonian world system. People will become obsessed with fantasy (sensuous and otherwise), materialism, and money. Even the elect can get caught up in this way of thinking if we do not renew our minds with the Word of God. We must pray against this demonic world system. Jeremiah 50 tells us how to prophetic intercede against Babylon.

**PRAY AGAINST THE
BABYLONIAN WORLD SYSTEM!**