

The Last Days

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I. Introduction.

A. Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus is coming again, that he will come to judge and that no one knows when he will come.

B. The sovereignty of God is the foundation of all history.

1. God is a God of law and order. (Isaiah 14:24, 27)
2. God is sovereign as far as nations are concerned. (Acts 17:26; Job 12:23)
3. God is all powerful. (Daniel 4:35; Matthew 28:18; Psalm 115:3)
4. God is sovereign in the individual lives of those who choose to obey him. (Job 23:13-14)
5. God is sovereign in history. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

II. Next events of history.

A. The saved will be raptured.

B. The Jews will re-gather in Jerusalem. (Ezekiel 36:20ff)

C. The tribulation will happen after Christians are gone.

1. The world will be divided into four areas of influence.
 - a. The northern kingdom. (Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 11:40-45; Joel 2)
 - b. The second power structure will be Israel.
 - c. The third power structure will be a confederation of ten nations with Rome at its center. (Daniel 7:1-20; Revelation 13:1-3)
 - d. The kings of the east. (Revelation 16:12-16)
2. There will a great world church described as a whore. (Revelation 17; Isaiah 47)
3. The beast will make an alliance with this church and destroy it. (Revelation 18:2-3)
4. There will be series of judgments blamed on two prophetic witnesses and then more judgments to come.
5. The witnesses will be killed. They will be raised in front of everyone from the dead. (Revelation 11:7-12)
6. There will be nuclear warfare. (Zechariah 14:12)

D. Jesus will return to set up his millennial kingdom. (Revelation 19)

E. Satan will be released for a short time. (Revelation 20:7-9)

F. The earth will be wrapped up. (2 Peter 3)

III. Believers need to know the signs of the times. (1 Chronicles 12:32; Matthew 16:2-3)

A. Setting dates for the end is foolish, but there are basic signs we can recognize that point to the end. (Matthew 24:3, 15)

1. The Jewish nation.

2. The world government.

3. The universal church.

IV. The importance of knowing the end. (Luke 21:27-28; Titus 2:12-13)

A. It shows us the Bible is relevant in the world in which we live.

B. It gives us comfort and encouragement for those who trust in Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

C. It encourages us to live holy lives. (2 Peter 3:11)

D. It stirs us to evangelize. (Isaiah 37:31)

Application questions:

1. What is the value of knowing end times events?

2. How would you outline the major events of the end times?

3. What will you do differently in light of a clearer understanding of the end? Explain.
