

# The Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1 – 4:5

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11/21/2021

**BIG BEND  
BIBLE  
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## 2 Timothy 3:1-9

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup> For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup> but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*

### What are the last days?

In the New Testament, this term refers to the last days of the Church Age just prior to the Lord's return.

### Are we in the last days?

As we go through these characteristics of the last days, we will see that we are indeed in the last days.

### What are perilous times?

At a glance these words appear rather mundane, since by its very nature, life is perilous. Hazards of every sort are found throughout all history. However, the Greek word that is here translated "perilous" really refers to human behavior, not just a destabilizing environment. As used elsewhere in the New Testament, it means "insanity," and more than that, an aggressive form of social violence and destructive rage further described by the character traits to follow.

### Are we living in perilous times?

The Tribulation will be characterized by wholesale death with half of the planet dying (Revelation 6:8, 9:15). So, we should expect to see more violence as the Tribulation draws near. Jesus said that His return would be "*as the days of Noah*" (Matthew 24:37) and we know from Genesis 6:11 that this time was characterized by violence.

- The Tribulation mind-set is already in place where some of the global warming faithful see population reduction as the only solution ...see the "Georgia Guidestones" sustain earth's population at 500M.

### What does it mean that *men will be lovers of themselves* (v2)?

People are naturally selfish, but in times past people have been better at masking their selfishness. As we get closer to the end of the Church Age, we can expect to see more shameless displays of selfishness. What would you expect from raised to believe they are evolved animals?

- Selfishness is the source of all sin; putting oneself ahead of all others especially God.

### Who are the *lovers of money* (v2)?

Humanists decry the greed of capitalism arguing that society needs to be more socialist. "Spreading the wealth around" sounds fair but what socialism does is take money from the successful and give it to the lazy. And the administrators of socialist institutions always seem to make out well. So who really is the greedy?

### How have we seen an increase in the *boasters and the proud* (v2)?

Our society is trying to insulate children from failure by not keeping score in sports and passing them on to the next grade no matter what. This has raised up an entire generation of people who have an unrealistically high opinion of themselves. So naturally they act like they are better than everyone else. What they don't realize is that "*pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*" (Proverbs 16:18). It will not be pretty when this collectively happens in our society as a whole.

- Pride is what caused Satan to fall.

### How have we seen an increase in *blasphemers* (v2)?

We have seen the rise of militant atheists who boldly attack Christianity. What better way to lash out at God than to assault His people? It is amazing that people who say they don't believe there is a Creator-God feel so compelled to convince others that their belief is correct. We can expect this spirit of Antichrist to grow as we near the return of Jesus.

### **Why do we see more children being *disobedient to parents* (v2)?**

A child not respecting their parents by obeying them is commonplace today. Part of this is due to parents adopting a flawed philosophy of permissiveness, but it is also a response to parents not loving their children.

Children need structure and discipline; *“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly”* (Proverbs 13:24). It is certainly not politically correct to discipline children today but moving away from biblical principles has consequences within the family and in society as a whole.

- Dysfunctional family love is a sign of the end of the Age...

Malachi 4:5-6 – *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*

### **Is there a problem with people being *unthankful* (v2)?**

It seems the more blessings people receive, the less grateful they are to the Giver of blessings (James 1:17). Our culture is moving away from God and has come to believe that the great advances and conveniences we enjoy in modern Western society are due to human achievement. This ungrateful mentality has permeated society fostering an entitlement culture where everyone thinks it is their “right” to more and more benefits. This sinful trend will have consequences.

### **How are people *unholy* (v2)?**

The humanist worldview has no concept of sin and so society keeps pushing the limits of what used to be considered improper. There used to be swear words that were not used in movies or on television programs but that is no longer the case. The language used is but a symptom of the condition of the culture. Expect our culture to degenerate to even greater depths of vulgarity as we get closer to the Tribulation.

### **How are people *unloving* (v3)?**

We see a lot of hate on display with Critical Race Theory which advances the idea that the way to solve racism is to stir up hatred toward the race historically responsible for racism in the past. But contrary to the conventional wisdom, two wrongs doesn’t make a right.

- Who does society ultimately brand as the haters? It is those who preach the Bible as being literally true. Which is more loving, telling people what they want to hear so they may feel good or telling them the truth so

they may make the changes they need to avoid disaster? Those accusing Bible believers of hatred are the true haters and their numbers are growing. Expect hatred of the truth to grow as we get closer to the end of the age.

### **How are people *unforgiving* (v3)?**

Revenge is growing as a motivation for personal attacks. Humanists have no concept of God making all things right so they feel the need to take justice into their own hands. And man’s concept of justice is subject to a flawed perspective when it is not moored to God’s Law. A lot of what is called social justice is really just punishing certain groups of people out of some human idea of fairness. Expect more of this as we transition from rule of law to rule of man.

### **How are people *slanderers* (v3)?**

Leftists cannot win intellectually in the marketplace of ideas because their policies do not work and are oppressive rather than empowering. So they always resort to personal destruction as a tactic to put their opposition on the defensive and distract people from the issues. They will attack their opponent personally to discredit them because they cannot win on the validity of their ideological arguments. Expect more personal slander and especially character attacks in politics as the Tribulation nears.

A growing tactic of Leftists in the spirit of Antichrist is to accuse people who disagree with them as being old fashioned, unscientific, racist, or haters. This has the affect of shutting down any opposition because people don’t want to be accused of these things. Slander puts you on the defensive trying to recover your reputation which only serves to make you look worse. The slanderer rarely gets called on the carpet for their false accusations and it wouldn’t matter anyway because the damage has already been done. But justice will be done since God is watching, *“for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment”* (Matthew 12:36). Come soon Lord Jesus!

### **How are people *without self-control* (v3)?**

The evolutionary worldview says people are just evolved animals. Since animals are not governed by morality, increasingly people likewise are doing whatever they feel like. If there is no ultimate judgment for people, why not do whatever feels good? The problem is that God is just and there will be a reckoning for what people say and do (Matthew 12:36). As people move further from God, they sear their conscience and willfully forget that judgment is coming. So we can expect even more animalistic behavior as the Beast of Revelation draws near.

### **How are people *brutal* (v3)?**

The evolutionary worldview has survival of the fittest as its engine of change. While the humanist will say we have evolved past the need for survival of the fittest, they still expect it to be a valid path for progress. They'll justify their ruthlessness by saying, "you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs." When you have no moral mooring, there is no problem with using brutality as a tactic to achieve your goals especially since this is what happens in the survival of the fittest. So expect a dog-eat-dog mentality to increase as mankind turns further from God.

### **How are people *despisers of good* (v3)?**

We live in an era when what is good and right is being condemned as being bad and wrong. This is being done to condition people to embrace selfish expression as not being a problem. "*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*" (Isaiah 5:20). It is the spirit of Antichrist that seeks to change what God has told us is right and wrong (Daniel 7:25). So we can expect to see more people hating what is right and good the closer we get to the rise of the Antichrist.

### **How are people *traitors* (v4)?**

When people reject the authority of God, they also reject any authority God establishes. Thus people will be disloyal to their employers and governments so that more traitors will emerge. Indeed, this has already become a tool of those with a globalist vision forcing national sovereignty to yield to the new world order. So we can expect more embarrassing national secrets to be exposed publicly. After all, why do we need national secrets if we are to have a global government? Mighty spiritual forces are guiding us ever closer to a worldwide government.

### **How are people *Headstrong & haughty* (v4)?**

At its core, the humanist worldview fosters arrogance. It is the height of arrogance to take credit for what God has done replacing it with human achievement. This haughty attitude will manifest itself in all manners of human endeavors. It causes formerly democratic governmental leaders to act contrary to public opinion. The pursuit of their ideology takes precedence over what is collectively considered right. As totalitarianism approaches, expect to see political leaders and unelected technocrats acting more as dictators than governors.

### **How are people *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God* (v4)?**

As more people embrace the error that this physical world is all there is, there will be an increasing desire to

experience all the pleasures the world offers while there is time. So there will be a growing amount of time and energy going into the pursuit of pleasure. What feels good from a worldly perspective is not necessarily what is good for us particularly when it is taken to excess. God wants us to have pleasure but not without Him. When we recognize that God is the source of our pleasure, we honor Him when we seek it. But the more people pursue pleasure apart from God, the more we kindle His wrath.

### **How are people *having a form of godliness but denying its power* (v5)?**

God created us to have a relationship with Him. So when people reject Him, they are compelled to adopt some belief system that takes the place of that relationship. Thus all people have some sort of religion that governs the decisions they make. Humanists reject a personal relationship with God and see themselves as their own authority. They may or may not overtly practice a religion or even consider themselves to be spiritual. But they all look to themselves and human institutions as the source of their deliverance rather than Jesus Christ. The further mankind moves away from the power of God, the closer we are to seeing it displayed in God's wrath.

### **Who is it that *creep into households and make captives of gullible women* (v6)?**

As people move further away from the morality of God, they will seek to achieve their worldly goals any way they can; the end will justify the means. There will be more lying to get ahead and others will be exploited to satisfy worldly pursuits. Indeed people with worldly perspectives are the easiest to exploit and deceivers will use their understanding of common illicit motives to take advantage of them. The more we can train ourselves to have God's eternal perspective, the less susceptible we will be to the growing numbers of exploiters in these end times.

### **Why is it that women are called out here as being *gullible*?**

This actually applies to the gullible of both sexes. Women don't have a corner on being gullible. But this also speaks to situations that departs from the order that God has established where a husband and wife together in a household can consult one another and are thus less likely to be duped...

*Ecclesiastes 4:12 – Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

And for those believers who are single, it is all the more important to be part of a fellowship and to consult other believers lest they go off the deep end...

Proverbs 11:14 – *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

### **How are people always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (v7)?**

Why is it that the most educated among us usually seem to be the furthest from God? Humanists think education can solve all societies' ills without needing a relationship with God, the source of all wisdom.

- The pursuit of knowledge apart from God will lead a person further from the truth. That is why deception will be so effective in the last days because people will not be spiritually discerning. So expect to see more learned professors pursuing and teaching worthless knowledge "*deceiving and being deceived*" (2 Timothy 3:13).

### **How is it people will resist the truth like Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses (v8)?**

They will deny miracles from God dismissing them as just a coincidence or a magic trick in order to avoid giving God the glory.

### **How is it people will have corrupt minds (v8)?**

As people turn away from God, He gives them over to irrational thinking...

Romans 1:28 – *even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting*

### **Where have we seen the results of corrupt minds today?**

- The social phenomena we witness in today's world often cause us to comment that something we've just seen or heard about is pure insanity. All of us have watched the "Defund the Police!" chants, and wondered at the illogic of such a position. Fewer police means less crime? Not really.
- CRT: fight racism with racism (as if two wrongs make a right)
- They tear down public monuments, loot retail neighborhoods, and set fires that stage their real declaration: "We come with anew message for our new generation. You, who try to preserve your outmoded society are racists and sexists, who deny the revolutionary changes that will soon come to make the world a place that reflects our improved philosophy."
- Gender confusion that says you can be just what you feel like... who are the real science deniers?

- A culture of death preparing the planet for wholesale death of the tribulation where...

Isaiah 13:12 – *I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold*

### **How will the religion of Climate Change make for perilous times?**

The problem is seen as mankind pumping too much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere (which plants need to flourish). As the rulers get impatient with the inability for "sustainable energy" to replace fossil fuels for transportation, they will see population control as the solution (hence the Georgia Guidestones).

### **What will be the fruit of all the social upheaval we're seeing today?**

Identity confusion... social order crumbles. The resulting disorder produces a hotbed of radical social instability, allowing an internal revolution to move through society. Its goal: A top-down dictatorship that ironically promises equality (or "equity," as it is now called, decided by the state).

- It emerges from an ancient tradition of pitting social groups against each other, with the idea of confusing their most basic truths. They win revolutionary conflict, allowing their new leaders to direct their actions. This was the technique perfected by Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, among others.

### **How is it those with corrupt minds are disapproved concerning the faith (v8)?**

Those who don't have faith in God's provision will instead trust in something else such as human reasoning which is idolatry (all people have faith in something). Those without the truth will believe anything...

Ephesians 4:14 – *that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting*

Believers have the benefit of the Holy Spirit which helps us discern the truth...

1 Corinthians 2:14 – *the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

### **How is it those with *corrupt minds will progress no further* (v9)?**

The progress the ungodly seek is always illusive. Ever notice that the labels “progressives” use result in just the opposite? Example: Affordable Care Act. The policies of the “progressives” always bring about the very thing they are seeking to avoid... socialism destroys economies always and everywhere.

### **How is it that the *folly of those with corrupt minds will be manifest to all*?**

Truth has a way of becoming clear with the passage of time.

### **2 Timothy 3:13 – What general trend should we expect in the last days?**

*evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived* (2 Timothy 3:13)

Deception will increase as Jesus warned us about...

Matthew 24:3-5 – “*what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*” And Jesus answered and said to them: “*Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.*”

The media lies consistently promoting their “progressive” ideology.

- People think they are too sophisticated to be duped by propaganda but if you’re not grounded in the truth, you will be “*tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine*” (Eph 4:14).

### **2 Timothy 4:3-4 – What kind of fables have turned people away from God?**

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.* (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Despite living in an age when it is easier to see the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, more professing Christians embrace non-biblical interpretations of Scripture.

- Most professing Christians today spiritualize Scripture believing it does not necessarily mean what it says. They embrace a spiritual interpretation that they are comfortable with but reject the plain sense reading of the passage.
- This is particularly the case with Bible prophecy in the embrace of amillennialism; “sure Jesus is returning but not until the end of time which has to be a long, long time away.”
- The idea that time will end is a fable that goes along with other misconceptions of heaven thinking that it is

an ethereal spirit world, and this is not something about which us physical beings can get very excited.

- They also embrace the fable of evolution thinking that God used it as the mechanism of creation.
- Most Christian seminaries teach these fables cranking out preachers to satisfy their church goers with the feel-good messages they want to hear.

### **What applications do we see from this discussion?**

We are in the last days of the Church Age ...so, we should not be conducting ourselves as if it were business as usual

- Things are not going back to the way it was...

Ephesians 5:16 – *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*