

Bible Doctrines

Matthew 24: 7. Famines arid pestilence.

6. The Need for Preparation.

- Matthew 24:36-41. Many will be taken unawares by the Lord's coming.
Matthew 24: -13. Christ exhorts us to watch and be ready.
Matthew 25: 1-13. If we do not watch we may leave our preparation for Christ's return too late.

MEMORIZE: Matthew 25: 13.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What may we know, and what can we not know, about the time of the Second Advent?
2. How did Christ condemn the Jewish leaders for their failure to recognize His coming as the Messiah."
3. Show that Jesus desires us to be acquainted with the things which point to the end of the world.
4. How may we know when Christ's coming is near? Relate the parable Jesus spoke to emphasize this.
5. How did Christ describe conditions among the nations in the last days?
6. What will men in the last days do to the earth?
7. To what period of the earth's history did Jesus liken the last days? How did He describe that period?
8. Why will the love of many for spiritual things grow cold?
9. What description of last-day society does Paul give in 2 Timothy 3?
How does he indicate that there will be a profession of religion by wicked people?
10. What claims will be made by false prophets?
11. What did John foretell about the beast symbol? How will this be fulfilled?
12. Give a prophecy that points to the spread of spiritualism in the last days.
13. What important work of God must be finished before the end of the world?
How will many treat this message?
14. Name the three great signs in the physical world that help us to know where we are in the divine program of events. In what events, and when, do we see these signs fulfilled?
15. At what time does Bible prophecy locate the darkening of the sun?
What event in the physical world is to follow the falling of the stars?
16. Give a brief description of the Lisbon earthquake, the dark day, and the falling stars.
17. What did Jesus exhort His followers to do with reference to His coming?
18. What example of unpreparedness in the past should serve as a warning to us?
19. Relate the parable of the ten virgins. What purpose did Jesus have in mind in relating it?

For Further Study

1. Gather some facts about the prevalence of earthquakes in the world today. See "Source Book for Bible Students," page 152.
2. Go through the prophecies of Matthew 24, and note which prophecies have yet to be fulfilled.

36. PERILS AND DELUSIONS OF THE LAST DAYS

1. The Last Days Perilous.

- 2 Timothy 3:1. In the last days perilous times shall come.
Luke 21:26. Men's hearts will fail them for fear.

2. Perils to Life in the Last Days.

In the last days there will be external perils such as the world has never known before. Because of the prevailing wickedness of man, combined with a marvelous increase in scientific knowledge the world will be a dangerous place to live in. Satan will reveal Himself in his true character as a murderer (John 8:44) as he takes control of minds that are yielded to his control.

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2 Timothy 3: 13.	Evil men and seducers will become worse and Worse.
Revelation 11:1-5.	Men will bring destruction upon the earth itself.
Matthew 24:6-7	There will be conflicts among the nations.
2 Timothy 3:1	The righteous will be persecuted.
Revelation 13: 3-8.	The power symbolized by the beast will attack God's people.
Revelation 13: 15-17.	An attempt will be made to destroy the faithful.

We must be willing to die rather than deny our faith in Jesus Christ. It is those who are faithful unto death who will receive the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10.) The true servants of God will adopt the same attitude towards oppressive laws aimed at overthrowing their faith as the three Hebrews in the days of Nebuchadrezzar. (Daniel 3:17,18.) Psalm 91: 1-16. When the devastating plagues of the last days fall upon the wicked, God has promised protection to His People.

3. Perils to the Spiritual Life.

More to be dreaded than the perils that threaten the physical life, are those which have to do with one's spiritual life, for these can rob it of eternal life. The Bible gives us special warnings against these perils, Luke 21:31-36.

2 Timothy 3:5.	The peril of worldliness.
Matthew 25:1-13.	The peril of a formal religion.
Matthew 24:42-44	The peril of neglect in spiritual things.
Matthew 24:48-51.	The peril of being surprised.
Matthew 24:48-51.	The peril of carelessness.
Hebrews 10:35-38.	The peril of giving up the faith.
James 5:7,8.	The peril of weariness.
1 Timothy 4: 1.	The peril of delusion.

4. The Assurance of Victory

Despite the unprecedented perils of the last days, God will give victory to all those who trust Him.

Nahum 1:7.	God knows those who trust Him.
Isaiah 25: 9.	He will save those who wait for the Lord's return.
Isaiah 10: 20-22.	God will rescue the remnant who remain faithful.
Revelation 14: 1-5.	A company will be victorious.
Revelation 15: 2-4.	There will be a song of victory.

MEMORIZE: Isaiah 25: 9.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does Paul describe the last days? What does Jesus say about the feelings of men in the last days?
2. What accounts for the perilous nature of the last days?
3. How will men use the instruments they have invented?
4. Who will suffer persecution? What persecuting power will operate in the last days?
5. What attempt will be made upon God's people?
6. How will the righteous face the threat of death? What examples of the past will encourage them?
7. What is a greater danger to the Christian than a threat to his life? Why?
8. Name some dangers to the spiritual life.
9. How did Jesus illustrate the danger of neglect? of worldliness? of being taken unawares?
10. Against what particular delusion of the last days are we warned?
11. Give a promise to encourage us amidst the perils of the last days.
12. How are the 144,000 described? What song of triumph do the victorious saints sing?

For Further Study

1. Name some delusions which are prevalent in the world today.
2. What attitude should a Christian adopt towards civil government?
3. What aid do we have to help us through the perils of the last days?