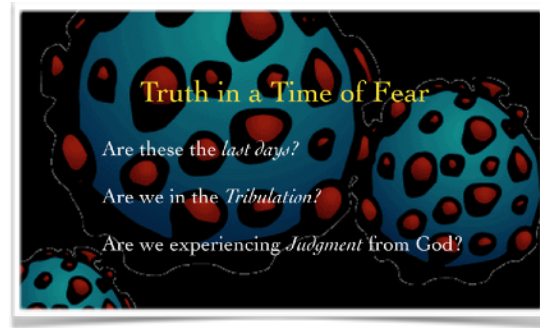


Three questions:

1. Are these the last days?
2. Are we in the Tribulation?
3. Are we experiencing Judgment from God?



## **Are these the Last/Latter Days?**

### **The Latter Days in the O.T.**

- Numbers 24:14 —The Second Coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ).
- Deuteronomy 4:30—The Tribulation.
- Deuteronomy 31:29—The evil of the Tribulation.
- Job 19:25—The Redeemer who shall stand on the earth.
- Ezekiel 38:16—Tribulation war.
- Daniel 2 and 10—Tribulation/Second Coming
- Hosea 3:5—Israel turning to Jesus Christ and the Second Coming.

Genesis 49:1—Jacob’s prophecy of what would befall his sons in the *last days*.

**Deuteronomy 4:25-30**—The Lord told Israel what will happen in the *latter days* if they provoke the Lord to anger and the blessing that will come if they are obedient.

Deuteronomy 31:29—Corruption of the Jews in the *latter days*.

**Isaiah 2:2 (Micah 4:1)**—The Lord’s Kingdom set up in Jerusalem.

**Ezekiel 38:14-16**—A description of an invasion of Israel in the latter days, *after* they have signed a peace treaty with the antichrist.

**Hosea 3:4,5**—describes Israel’s current state and what will happen afterward when they seek the Lord. (Matthew 23:37-39—“Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”) In regards to David in this passage, does it refer to Jesus the Messiah, David being a type, or is it to be taken literally, that is, David will be resurrected and actually function as king over Israel and as a prince in subjection to the King of the world?

[John uses the expression, latter day or, in the New Testament *last day*, several times and it refers to the resurrection and the coming of Messiah (In his gospel, John 6:44; 6:54; 11:24, also 1 John 2:18)]

Paul gives one of the most descriptive accounts of the world in the last days.

- **2 Timothy 3:1-9:** *last days* - ἡμέρα hemera is a word that translates as *day* (chronological).  
[1 Timothy 4:1-2: *latter times* - καιρός kairos is the word that translates times/seasons]

Therefore, there are specific characteristics that help define the last days, invasions, corruptions, the resurrection, the Kingdom and a king set up, either David or Messiah, or both, along with other events that do not appear to have taken place. In light of those things it does not appear we are in the last days as Biblically described.

This proposition answers the next question,

### **Have we entered the Tribulation?**

There are two distinct events that will occur before the Tribulation (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

1. The (falling away) Rapture of the Church.
2. The revealing of the man of sin (the anti-christ)

Likewise, 1 Thessalonians 1:10 makes it clear, we are not appointed to wrath (Coronavirus cannot be the wrath of God).

So long as the Body of Christ is on earth, the Tribulation will not begin. When the Body of Christ is removed, the Holy Spirit will be removed (2 Thessalonians 2:6,7).

### **Are we experiencing Judgment from God?**

Each time a natural disaster hits or a plague occurs, people are quick to blame God, or to blame mankind for disobedience to God. Part of our misunderstanding comes from an incorrect interpretation of Matthew 24:7.

The events of today, e.g. COVID-19 must be one of the pestilences that Jesus was referring to. And yet, plagues and pestilences are not new. Consider some of the large scale pandemics just in the last 1800 years.

### Worldwide Pandemics

AD 165–Antonine Plague (Smallpox or Measles). 5 million deaths.  
AD 541-542–Plague of Justinian (Bubonic Plague) 25 million deaths.  
AD 1346-1353–The Black Death (Bubonic Plague/from fleas living on rats) 75-200 million deaths.  
AD 1852-1860–Third Cholera Pandemic (Cholera) 1 million deaths.  
AD 1889-1890–Flu Pandemic (Flu) 1 million deaths.  
AD 1910-1922–Sixth Cholera Pandemic (Cholera) 800,000+ deaths.  
AD 1918–Spanish Flu Pandemic (Flu) 20-25 million deaths.  
AD 1956-1958–Asian Flu (Flu) 2 million deaths.  
AD 1968–Flu Pandemic (Flu) 1 million deaths.  
AD 2005-2012–HIV/AIDS (AIDS) 36 million deaths.  
AD 2020–Coronavirus (Virus) 6.068 deaths (as of March 16, 2020–number is rising).

We live in a world filled with sin, Romans 8:18-22. According to Genesis 3:17-19, the earth is cursed with painful labor, and death.

Because of what Adam did in Eden the whole creation is in a state of travail and it will be that way until Revelation 21:4. We are not in the Kingdom now, we are in the world of the curse.

In the past, and in the future, God dealt with nations. The dispensation of Grace has interrupted this and God currently deals with people individually. Look what He has done:

**1. Colossians 2:13,14** states that the "trespasses of all" have been forgiven. At the Cross, Jesus Christ took the sins of the entire world, not just a chosen few, and for the Jews, the "handwriting of ordinances" was "blotted out."

**2.** Since we are not under the Law (And by the way, Gentiles were never under the Law, Ephesians 2:11-13), **Romans 5:13** tells us that "sin is not imputed when there is no law." The ordinances have been blotted out, there is no law, our sin, corporate or individual, is not put on our account.

**3. 2nd Corinthians 5:19**, "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world (*kosmos*) unto himself, not imputing their (all mankind, *kosmos*) trespasses unto them." And while death still reigns and all men must believe in the completed work of Jesus Christ, The sins of everyone, every individual on planet earth, have been forgiven.

Because we live under GRACE, it is not sin that separates us from God, While we are still sinful, we don't have a sin problem (that was taken care of and is not being imputed), it is unbelief in the finished work of Jesus Christ; his death, burial, and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3,4). Paul calls that finished work "the operation of God" in Colossians 2:12.

In the age of GRACE, God is not dealing with nations, He offers salvation individually freely by grace, to anyone, anywhere, anytime who believes in the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Those who believe, are part of His body and "are ambassadors for Christ" urging people to be "reconciled" to God by faith in the operation of God.

The body of Christ is the only thing holding back the "man of sin" and the Tribulation (2 Thessalonians 2:3,6-7), and since the Holy Spirit resides in the Body of Christ once the Body of Christ is removed from the earth, via the Rapture, the Holy Spirit will also be "taken out of the way." It will at that time all hell will break loose.

As long as the Body of Christ is still on the earth, events, like the coronavirus are merely results of a fallen world and are not events of the last days, the Tribulation, or judgment from God. As ambassadors, we need to use our time wisely; not getting caught up in fear and speculation about the end times, but looking for our Blessed Hope, the Rapture of the Church, when the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are Alvie and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Beloved, in a time of fear, comfort one another with those words.