

# **The Last Days**

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**11/9/2014**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The expression "last day" OR "last days" occurs in 19 Bible verses (Neh. 8:18; Isa. 2:2; Jer. 23:20; 49:39; Ezek. 38:16; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1; John 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 7:37; 11:24; 12:48; Acts 2:17; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2; James 5:3; 2 Pet. 3:3).

## **A SPECIFIC TIME**

In several passages, the expression refers to a specific time, such as the last day of a feast (Neh. 8:13-18, esp. vs. 18; John 7:37-39).

## **THE MESSIANIC AGE**

The expression is used in Old Testament prophecy in reference to the Messianic age or Christian dispensation (Isa. 2: 2-4, esp. vs. 2; Hos. 3:1-5, esp. vs. 5; 4:1-5, esp. vs. 1; Acts 2:14-21, esp. vs. 17; cf. Joel 2:28-29).

## **THE INDETERMINATE FUTURE**

On occasion, the expression refers to the indeterminate future, relative to the time of the writer (Jer. 23:16-22, esp. vs. 20; 49:34-39, esp. vs. 39; Ezek. 38: 14-16, esp. vs. 16; 2 Tim. 3:1-5, esp. vs. 1; 2 Pet. 3:3-10, esp. vs. 3).

## **THE FINAL DAY OF JUDGMENT**

In the New Testament, the expression frequently refers to the final day of judgment (John 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:24; 12:48; James 5:3).

## **CONCLUSION**

Let us exercise caution in referring to the Biblical expression, "the last days," to ensure that we interpret each verse in a proper contextual manner.