

Things Hard To Understand (#6) Are We Approaching The Last Days?

Text: Matthew 24:4-14

Introduction:

1. There are not many passages which better fit the warning given by Peter in 2 Peter 3:16 than our text.
2. Using this text many religionists speak of the impending beginning of the "last days" and the end of the world. This lesson will seek to clarify the error into which so many are led astray.

Discussion:

I. What Are The "Last Days?"

1. A time of difficulty and peril (2 Timothy 3:1)
2. Is this a time which we are soon to face? God gives evidence in the Old Testament as to when that will be...
 - (1) Isaiah 2:2; Micah 4:1
 - (2) Joel 2:28-32 – now read Acts 2:1-21...
3. While many speak of the "last days" we are about to enter, it seems that God says they began on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2!

II. What Then Does Matthew 24 Teach?

1. Note the questions the disciples asked in Matthew 24:3–
 - (1) "When shall these things be?"
 - (2) "...what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"Likely without realizing it, the disciples asked not one question but two! If we examine this chapter with this realization it becomes clear what is taught.
2. "When shall these things be?" (4-35)

3. "...what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?" (36-51)

Conclusion:

1. We have been in the last days since the events on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. Jesus warned that there will be no signs of the end of the world and His coming.
2. After setting forth this truth, Jesus continued in Matthew 25 teaching through the parable of the ten virgins (25:1-13) and the parable of the talents (25:14-30) that we must live a life of preparation, especially given the picture of the judgment given in verses 31-46!
3. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:44)

Next week: "What is the kingdom?... When will it begin?"