

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: The Last Days

II Peter 3:8 -- *be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*

Ignorant - Greek: lanthano - to lie hid; cover up or conceal facts the Greek word truth is alanthano - the alpha (a) placed before a word negates the meaning; truth means not to conceal anything. When Peter says, "Be not ignorant", he is actually saying, "I'm going to tell you truth, in fact."

Psalms 90:4 -- *For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday*

Acts 2:17 -- *It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh--*

II Timothy 3:1 -- *In the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come*

II Peter 3:3 -- *there shall come in the last days scoffers -- saying, where is the promise of his coming?*

The "last days" is a term used frequently in the Old Testament (Gen. 49:1; Isa. 2:2; Micah 4:1) to refer to the end times. Man is given 6 days to complete his work (Gen. 3:19; Ex. 20:9). The number 6 is the numerical value of completeness of mans curse (the number of antichrist is 666) (Rev. 13:18). The ancient Jewish Rabbis declared that a man works 6 days by the sweat of his brow, so must he complete his evil works of the flesh in 6 days or 6000 years (from Adam to the end of time). Peter says that the believers of God's word are not to be ignorant of this truth, that when God measures a week, a work day of man is a thousand years. The scoffers say that the believer has no hope. Our answer: "It's only been two days since he left and he is not willing that any of us (his sheep) should perish (II Peter 3:9; John 6:39)". The "times of the gentiles" (Luke 21:24) are the last two thousand years (two days) of God's "spiritual" week in which he has extended the gospel to all flesh (the gentiles). The gospel had been limited on a national level to the Jews only up until the time of Christ (John 1:11,12). The "last days" (two days) had already begun when Christ was here (Heb. 1:2) and at Pentecost (Acts 2:17) with the gospel extension to all flesh (red flesh, yellow flesh, black flesh, white flesh, etc). God blinded the eyes of the Jews at the beginning of these last days of God's week (Rom. 11:7, 8; Luke 19:42). The number 7 is the number of complete righteousness (which will be the final sabbath of rest). God said he would rip and tear Israel for two days (Hosea 5:14). For two thousand years Israel has been ripped and torn by beasts (Empires and Nations) because of their idolatry. Then God said after two days (the last days) of oppression he will revive them and raise them up to live in his sight (Resurrection of the dead is on the third day) (Hosea 6:2). The last days are not the last 50 - 100 years of time, but they are the last 2000 years of a 6 day work week of God. Jesus waited 4 days when he heard that Lazarus was sick. Then he went and raised him from the dead. In the same fashion Jesus waited 4000 years (4 days) to come and resurrect man (Adam) who was sick in sin. Chronologists cannot pinpoint our exact year on the Jewish or Gregorian calendars. We are, however, in the vicinity of the year 6000 from Adam. It has been approximately 2000 years (two days) since Jesus walked the earth. The last days will be shortened for the elect's sake (Mark 13:20). Christ's coming is the hope of the believer (Titus 2:13).

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