

The Last Day

Introduction:

- A. The Bible speaks of a day that is referred to as “the last day.”
 - 1. When Lazarus of Bethany died, Jesus told Martha, the sister of Lazarus, “Your brother will rise again” (Jn. 11:23).
 - 2. Martha responded saying, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day” (Jn. 11:24).
 - 3. It isn’t surprising that Martha would speak of a “last day.”
 - 4. She had heard the teaching of Christ and it was Christ who often spoke of a “last day.”
 - a. Jn. 6:39-40, 44, 54.
 - b. Jn. 12:48.
- B. The Scriptures point to one day as “the last day.”
 - 1. The New Testament refers to the present gospel age as the “last days” (Heb. 1:1-2).
 - 2. Illustration: We understand the concept of “last”—no more follow.
 - 3. Our lives normally consist of thousands of days.
 - 4. The history of the earth has included thousands upon thousands of successive days.
 - 5. But when the Bible speaks of a “last day” it speaks of a point in time after which no more days will follow.
 - 6. The phrase “last day” refers to a definite, final point in the history of mankind on earth.
 - 7. It carries the idea of a definite end to the world and the affairs of man on earth.
 - 8. Since it is “the last day” no more days will follow it.
 - 9. It is the end of time.
- C. The last day is referred to in a number of different ways in the New Testament.
 - 1. It is called, “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:6).
 - 2. It is called, “the day of God” (2 Pet. 3:12).
 - 3. It is called, “the great day” (Jude 6).
 - 4. Sometimes it is just called, “that day” (Matt. 7:22).
 - 5. It is also called by a number of other designations.
- D. Some of the most important events to ever take place will occur on the last day.
 - 1. The last day is much more than just the final point of earthly history.
 - 2. The Scriptures teach that the last day will feature some of the greatest and most spectacular events that will ever transpire.

Body:

I. The Second Coming Of Christ.

- A. Christ will come again at the end of time.
 - 1. Jesus literally came the first time when he was born of a virgin (Matt. 1:20-25).

2. After his death and resurrection, he ascended into heaven to the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9-10).
 3. As he ascended into heaven his disciples were told that he would come again in the same way (Acts 1:11).
 4. The Bible assures us he will literally come a second time (Heb. 9:28).
 5. Many religious people have the idea that the Second Coming of Christ will mark the beginning of an earthly kingdom of Christ.
 6. But the apostle Paul informs us that when Jesus comes again it will be the end (1 Cor. 15:23-24).
 7. When Jesus comes again it will be the last day.
- B. No visible warning signs will precede his coming.
1. For centuries there has been endless speculation about the timing of the coming of Christ.
 2. Many religious groups and religious leaders have even been bold enough to set a particular date as the date of the return of Christ.
 3. Of course, all of these attempts at predicting the Second Coming of Christ have ended in failure.
 4. And, any future attempts to predict the date of his return will meet with failure as well.
 5. Jesus made it clear that no man knows the day of his coming (Matt. 24:36).
 6. The Lord's coming on the last day will be as unexpected and unanticipated as the coming of, "a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-2).
 7. Jesus will come again on the last day, but anyone who claims to be able to predict the timing of the last day is a liar.

II. The Bodily Resurrection Of The Dead.

- A. The dead will be raised on the last day.
1. The Bible defines physical death as the separation of the spirit from the body.
 - a. James 2:26.
 - b. Eccl. 12:7.
 2. When a person dies physically, his body goes into the grave, but his soul or spirit passes into an unseen realm.
 - a. In the Old Testament this unseen realm is called *sheol* (Psa. 16:10).
 - b. In the New Testament it is referred to as *hades* (Acts 2:27).
 3. But the spirits of those who have died physically will be reunited with a body and will be raised from the dead on the last day.
 4. Paul says the dead will be raised, "at the last trumpet" (1 Cor. 15:50-52).
- B. The resurrection of the dead will take place when Christ comes on the last day.
1. Jesus spoke of raising the dead on the last day.
 - a. Jn. 6:39-40.
 - b. Jn. 6:44-45.

- c. Jn. 6:54.
- 2. The resurrection of the dead will take place in direct connection with the Second Coming of Christ on the last day (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
- C. All of the dead will be raised on the last day.
 - 1. Many denominational groups teach that the righteous dead will be raised at one point in time, and then the wicked dead will be raised about a thousand years later.
 - 2. Others teach that the righteous dead will be raised, but the wicked dead will not be raised at all, but will instead cease to exist.
 - 3. But the Bible makes it clear that all of the dead, both righteous and wicked, will be raised at the same time on the last day.
 - a. Jn. 5:28-29.
 - b. Acts 24:15.
 - 4. All of the dead will be resurrected when Jesus comes on the last day.

III. The Destruction Of The Heavens And Earth.

- A. The physical universe will pass away.
 - 1. The Bible uses the phrase “heavens and earth” to refer to the entire physical universe including the stars, planets, the world and everything in it (Gen. 1:1).
 - 2. Some expect the physical universe to continue on indefinitely.
 - 3. But Jesus said that there will come a time when the physical universe will pass away (Matt. 24:35).
 - 4. God is eternal, but the physical universe will have an end (Psa. 102:25-26).
- B. The physical universe will be destroyed on the last day.
 - 1. Jesus said the physical realm would pass away on a certain day (Matt. 24:35-36).
 - 2. The apostle Peter informs us that the day on which the physical universe will be destroyed is the last day (2 Pet. 3:10-12).
 - 3. The last day will come as a thief in the night in which Christ will come, the dead will be raised, and the physical universe will pass away.
 - 4. When the last day arrives, the physical universe will have served its purpose and will be done away with.
 - 5. Peter urges us to live in the kind of way that reflects that we understand that this world and the things in it are not permanent (vv. 11-12).
 - 6. When the last day comes, there will be no more days for earth and the universe to follow.

IV. The Final Judgment Of Mankind.

- A. Everyone will be judged on the last day.
 - 1. The Bible often refers to the last day as “the day of judgment.”
 - a. Matt. 12:36.
 - b. 1 Jn. 4:17.

2. Paul says that God has appointed a certain day as the day of judgment (Acts 17:31).
 3. Jesus made the timing and standard of this judgment clear (Jn. 12:48).
 - a. Mankind will be judged by the gospel.
 - b. The judgment will take place on the last day.
 4. No one will be able to avoid or escape this final judgment on the last day.
 - a. Matt. 25:31-32.
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:10.
- B. Each person will receive a just reward on the last day.
1. Each person will be rewarded according to his own works (Matt. 16:27).
 2. Every individual will be given one of two rewards in the judgment (Matt. 25:46).
 - a. Those who have not been forgiven of their sins will face everlasting punishment in hell.
 - b. Those who have been faithful to God will dwell with him in heaven for eternity.
- C. The last day will be a day of joy and sorrow.
1. For those who are saved, the last day will be a day of incomparable joy.
 2. But for those who are lost, it will be a day of endless sorrow.
 3. There will be no mistakes in the judgment.
 - a. Rom. 2:6.
 - b. 2 Tim. 2:19.
 4. But many who believe they are saved will learn they are actually lost on the last day (Matt. 7:21-23).

Conclusion:

- A. The last day marks the end of man's opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness from the Lord.
- B. Once that day comes, the end comes and there will be no second chances.
- C. We don't know when the last day will arrive.
- D. Are you ready?