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Amplified by

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The Last Days

Biblical Characteristics of the Last Days – Part I

Intro: While there are still other promises in the Bible, we're going to switch gears and see if we can't map out some characteristics that pertain to the 'Last Days'. When one is reading some of the passages written by the Apostle Paul, we can see that he had _____ that the 'Last Days' would occur in his life time from which we can draw some important notes,

1. Christ did not come in Paul's life time and no one can _____ or state emphatically that they know the day or hour when Jesus is coming for the Redeemed of the Lord.

(Matthew 24:23 – 44 & 25:13; I Thessalonians 5:1 – 3; II Peter 3:9 & 10.)

If Paul got it wrong and Christ _____ to be specific, then there is no reason for anyone to attempt to set a date, but to be _____ in waiting upon our heavenly Father.

2. Though we are not to set a date for obvious reasons, the Scriptures do give examples of prophetic descriptions concerning the characteristics of the 'Last Days'.
3. So, what might be some reasons why God has in His wisdom withheld a specific time?
4. The purpose for giving us the characteristics that will mark the 'Last Days' is so that we will _____ the nearness of His return.

(Matthew 24:34 – 39 & Hebrews 10:25.)

It may well be in our life time, however, no matter how much we may want it to be soon,

(Revelation 22:20 - "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.) in all honesty it remains in God's hands. When one considers the biblical narrative of the 'Last Days', they are going to be _____ in nature.

I. Warfare is going to increase – **Matthew 24:6**

A. In most of our lifetime we have seen numerous wars, I was born towards the end of WWII and then followed the _____ War which lasted almost 40 years, but during that time we have had the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam war and since then we have had a number of wars in the Middle East, and recently Ukraine & Russia, Israel and Hamas.

1. In 1918 WW I was _____ the 'war to end all wars' – it did not!
2. In twenty-year's time, we were engaged in WW II.
3. Folks, we live in a fallen world and whether it is all out warfare on a battle field or a _____ battle for man's soul – war has been a part of life and will be until Jesus comes. (*The second Advent* – **Matthew 24:14 – 22**)

B. There will still be one more major war at the end of the seven-year Tribulation –

(**Revelation 16:16; 17: 17:14**)

1. With the Tribulation ended, and following the Millennium or 1,000-year reign of Christ we find Satan's last _____ before the new heavens and new earth will take place –

(**II Peter 3:10 – 13; Revelation 21:1 – 5.**)

a. Satan is for 1,000 years – **Revelation 20:1 – 3.**

b. Tribulation Saints _____ into the Millennium – **Revelation 20:4** and **Matthew 25:31 – 46.**

c. Those mentioned in **Revelation 20:5**, are those who _____ came to faith.

d. Those in **Revelation 20:6**, are those that are _____, having come to a saving faith in Christ. This first resurrection comes in waves,

(1). Those _____ Christ's resurrection – **Matthew 27:50 – 53.**

(2). Second wave – **I Corinthians 15:51 – 58; Thessalonians 4:13 – 18.**

(3). Third wave – **Revelation 20:4 & 5.**

(4). Final resurrection will be of all the _____ – **Revelation 20:11 – 15.**

2. In the final act dealing with Satan, he is cast into hell forever – **Revelation 20:8 – 10.**

C. While we have seen and witnessed a number of wars, be they literal wars or spiritual battles, we rejoice because we know not only the ending, but that beyond all this there is a sinless eternity that awaits the Redeemed of the Lord **Revelation 21:1 – 8.**