

10-20-2024 Sunday Sermon Message
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16
The Text: 2 Timothy 3:1-5
Title: **Perilous Times in the Last Days**

The Apostle Paul prophetically testified to Pastor Timothy that the last days would be very difficult:

"² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."(2 Timothy 3:2-5)

The last days in the Bible are the days that will take place before the end time. Long time ago, God called Noah and told him to build an ark, saying that in 120 years, God would judge the world with a flood. God gave them 120 years before the Final Judgment. The last days of God for them were 120 years. The Apostle Peter testifies that during those last days, 120 years, Noah faithfully worked to build the ark in obedience to God's Word, preaching God's message of judgment:

"And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; "(II Peter 2:5)

Jesus spoke of what life the world will be like in the last days, when the last days are past and He will return to the world to judge the world:

" But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only,
³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.
³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."(Matthew 24:36-39)

When He said that they eat and drink, and married each other until the day Noah entered the ark, He was referring to what kind of evil life they lived before God. Moses, who wrote the book of Genesis, testified of the evil things that all the people of the world did before God in Noah's day:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.....

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁶ And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

... And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

⁶ And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."(Genesis 6:1,2,5,6,12,13)

God said that those who lived in Noah's day, and the people of the world who are living in the last days, just before the rapture of the upcoming appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ and the second coming on earth, are also as evil as they were then and now. In other words, we can see how corrupt and wicked the hearts of the people were in the very difficult days of the last days, and such evil things were being done in the days of Noah.

Even Nimrod, who built Babel after experiencing God's great judgment in the days of Noah, resisted God's word and built the city and towers high in the sky so that they would not be scattered on the face of the earth, but they also knew that they had done vain things in the last days before God's judgment when God confused their

language and prevented them from fulfilling their will. Not only that, Sodom and Gomorrah did not realize that God's judgment would come, and they committed lewd acts in the last days, and they were finally consumed by fire and brimstone.

God planned to judge the wicked world, and He has been bringing about various disasters to make the wicked people realize it, and He will judge the unrepentant world through the great tribulation. Jesus foretold his disciples about what would happen at the end of the world:

" For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

⁸ All these are the beginning of sorrows.

... And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said,

⁶ As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

⁷ And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

⁸ And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

²⁶ Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

²⁷ And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

²⁸ And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your

redemption draweth nigh."(Matthew 24:5-8, Luke 21:25-28)

The Bible speaks of when the last days began. Satan the Devil brought sin into the Garden of Eden six thousand years ago, they listened to him, and after Adam and Eve sinned, God gave the whole world to Satan by the law of righteousness. But in the fulness of time, Satan shall be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ, who appears to the world as the offspring of the woman, by having his head broken. Satan was judged ; he is the ruler of sin and death, when Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected on the third day, and when He threw him into the eternal lake of fire at the end of the Millennium, the world over which he ruled will come to an end.

Therefore, the last days are the time of the past two thousand years, from the time of Jesus' resurrection and ascension to the coming of the Holy Spirit to the last days when Jesus returns and establishes his kingdom in heaven and earth. He has given us grace for the last two thousand years so that we may believe the gospel of Christ and be saved during these last days. However, on the day of the rapture, when Christ Jesus appears in the air and takes his church to heaven, the grace given in the last days will come to an end. This is why Jesus said that after the coming of the Holy spirit he would reprove the world:

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me;

¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."(John 16:7-11)

Satan the Devil, the ruler of this world, has already been judged in the heavenly court, and when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, the judgment against him shall be executed, and the seed of the woman will bruise his head (Genesis 3:15).

Therefore, the Church, as the bride of Christ, is to live a godly life, praying that the whole spirit, soul, and body may be preserved without reproach until He comes (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The last days are just around the corner.

Maranatha!

Amen! Hallelujah!