

Monday Week 50 Last Day Warnings

Bible Reading: 2 Peter 3:3-10

Q 197 What will mark scoffers in the last days?

A. Scoffers will make fun of Christ's return.

The sixth grade teacher in a Russian village asked each student in the class a question. "Do you believe in God?" Jenny listened as each of the students in her class said, "No." When it was her turn to answer, Jenny answered in a quiet yet firm voice, "Yes, I believe in God." The teacher asked, "Do you believe that God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth?" Jenny answered clearly, "That's what the Bible says, and that's what I believe." Then the teacher turned to the rest of the class and told them how stupid it was to believe the Bible, since science had proved that the Bible was nothing but a fairy tale. But Jenny didn't let that harm her faith. She knew that God was present in their home and in her heart. She felt sorry for the teacher and for the other students who didn't know God.

What Jenny experienced is what the Bible warns us about in the last days. Scoffers will make fun of those who believe in Jesus and in His coming again. Don't be surprised if people make fun of your faith. Stay true to Jesus.

Thinking Deeper

Those of us who believe in the second coming are looked upon with disdain by popular culture. It is similar disdain that is shown to those who believe in creation or intelligent design. The vitriol is unprecedented. We are considered stupid or retarded and our beliefs are described as nonsense, wholly owned subsidiary of the fundamentalist religious right, sectarian, threat to freedom, pseudo science, flat earth thinking, substituting mythology for reason, un-American, fictitious garbage, and fairy tale. On reading the scoffers views, one surely doesn't "feel the love."

On the other hand, there is seldom if ever any scientific discussion of the creation scientists' arguments for intelligent design or creationism. In fact, most of the animosity comes from people who are not scientists themselves, and most scientists who weigh in on the matter don't have credentials to make the statements they make.

The whole issue comes down to presuppositions, and Peter's inspired predictions of the last days indicate that the presupposition of uniformitarianism – "all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" – will cause skeptics "willingly ignorant" of the flood to scoff at God's promises. The presupposition that God's Word is truth opens the door to another view of the past – one that includes God's involvement. So it's belief vs. unbelief. Theism vs. atheism. Keep the faith!

Tuesday Week 50 Last Day Warnings

Bible Reading: Matthew 24:4-14

Q 198 Who did Jesus warn would deceive many in the last days?

A. Jesus warned that many false prophets would deceive many.

A man walked up to a small boy and asked, "Could you help me? I've just lost my dog." The little boy's parents had told him never to go with strangers. So he said, "I'll go get my dad and he can help you." Then he ran home. The man really hadn't lost his dog. He was trying to trick the boy. He may have been a kidnapper. The boy did a wise thing by going to get his dad. Some people are very bad. They may try to trick you. Always be careful to obey what your parents tell you. Think about this: no adult needs the help of a child. Always check with your parents if a stranger approaches you.

Jesus said that we should watch out for false prophets. Some people will act like they belong to God, but will lead people the wrong way. Many people will be tricked who listen to them. Always follow Jesus. He will lead you right.

Thinking Deeper

A preacher named Jim Jones was in a meeting with some of his staff when he said that too many people were following the Bible and not following him. Jones became a cult leader with as many as 8,000 followers. Eventually he led many of them to South America where they formed a community called Jonestown. People sensed that things were not right in Jonestown, and Congressman Leo Ryan traveled there to investigate. As he was leaving, some people tried to leave with him. On November 17, 1978, gunmen from Jonestown ambushed the group and Congressman Ryan was killed. The next day, Jim Jones declared a state of emergency, and everyone was either to kill himself or be killed, and 912 people died that day because they had followed a false prophet.

Jesus said that in the last days many people would be deceived by false prophets. It is important to know the Bible for yourself so you will not be deceived. False prophets will teach other things than the Bible. Don't be deceived. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." Stay with the Bible.

Wednesday Week 50 Last Day Warnings

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:1-5

Q 199 What will be a major compromise in the last days?

A. People will turn away from the truth and listen to fables.

According to a Greek legend, the Isle of the Sirens was an island in the sea where beautiful ladies would sing to ships that passed by. As the sailors heard the singing, they were so captivated that they would turn their ship toward the island. But the ships never made it because of the rocks. Many ships were lost. One captain named Orpheus decided how to keep the sailors from the rocks. When they came near the island, Orpheus began to play his lyre and sang so that he drowned out the other voices. The sailors listened to the musician, and didn't hear the music from the island. They made it safely past the danger.

Just as the Bible warned, there are many voices in these days saying things that seem nice to hear. But these voices often tell things that are not true. If you follow them, you will lose your faith and be destroyed. It is important to keep the truth in your heart and mind. That way you will save yourself from destruction.

Thinking Deeper

An article on a Web site was written by a man who said he'd "grown" beyond believing that the Bible was true. He scorned people who hold to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. He encouraged others to leave the "outmoded" ideas of Christianity. On the same Web site was an article promoting crystals as a way to find meaning and direction in life. Crystals! The contrast was notable: the Bible is scorned while crystals are exalted. It's Romans 1 coming to life. They serve the creature above the Creator.

People will believe in something. If they reject God, they will turn to something else. Post-modern man has tried scientism which has failed, and now turns to fables – the earth has a supernatural power of its own (Gaia), or life on earth was planted years ago by aliens, or life spontaneously generated out of nothing.

Standing firm in the faith in these evil times is not stupid or foolish. It is the mark of wisdom. Fight the good fight!

Thursday Week 50 Last Day Warnings

Bible Reading: Jude 1-4; 17-21

Q 200 What are Christians to do in the last days?

A. Christians are to earnestly contend for the true faith.

A fifth grader listened to his teacher give a lesson on evolution. After a while he raised his hand. “Yes,” she said, “what is it?” The boy bravely answered, “I don’t believe that evolution is true.”

The teacher looked at the boy and said, a little sternly, “I am older than you and I have a college education. I believe in evolution, and so should you.”

The boy did not back down. “My father is older than you and he has a doctor’s degree. He doesn’t believe in evolution, so you shouldn’t believe in it either.”

The Bible teaches us to be strong in our belief in God. Jude wrote that we should “earnestly contend for the faith.” Don’t let someone talk you out of your belief in Jesus. Be strong in the faith. God said “Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee” (Isa. 41:10).

Thinking Deeper

Anti-Christian sentiment is growing in these times. Television, talk radio, print media, the Internet, government schools, higher education, business giants, and political organizations are mostly controlled by people who have non-Christian philosophies. Books by atheists mocking Christianity are given prominent shelf space in book stores. This is no time for weak Christians. It will take earnest hearted believers to stand in these evil days. Yet we are not without resources.

Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” The inspired apostle wrote, “If God be for us, who can be against us?” These are days that demand courage and boldness. Our Lord said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” Take heart and take heed to Jude’s admonition: “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

Review the Week's Questions

- Q 197 What will mark scoffers in the last days?
A. Scoffers will make fun of Christ's return.
- Q 198 Who did Jesus warn would deceive many in the last days?
A. Jesus warned that many false prophets would deceive many.
- Q 199 What will be a major compromise in the last days?
A. People will turn away from the truth and listen to fables.
- Q 200 What are Christians to do in the last days?
A. Christians are to earnestly contend for the true faith.

A group of lions is called a pride. Usually one male lion is the pride leader. Sometimes a strange lion will come and fight with the leader. If the leader loses he will run away and the new lion will take his place. This is the most dangerous time in the life of little lion cubs. The new leader will often find the cubs and kill them. He probably does it so that there will only be cubs in the pride that belong to him. For the cubs, those are perilous times. Their lives are in great danger. The lion keeps trying to find them and kill them.

The Bible tells us that in the last days there will be perilous times. Christians will be made fun of. Evil powers will try to destroy their faith. Many people will be deceived. God's people must be aware of the plan of the enemy. We know that the devil goes around "like a roaring lion" seeking who he can eat up. The words of Jesus give us encouragement for these times. "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Thinking Deeper

As of 2008, in many parts of the world these are perilous times for Christians. Iraqi Christians have fled to safe places and remain in hiding. Christians are overtly persecuted in many Arab nations. In one part of India, Christians suspended their Christmas celebrations because of violence. Chinese Christians continue to face government sanctioned oppression in a major crackdown on house churches. In November, thousands of Egyptian Muslims attacked a Coptic church. In southern Mexico traditionalist Catholics have stepped up oppression against evangelicals. And as a throwback to Soviet policy, legislation in Russia has targeted evangelical Christian groups with the goal of making them illegal and forcing them to disband their Russian work.

These are perilous times for Christians. In addition to the overt persecution there is the continuation of denigration of faith in the main institutions of society. What is a Christian to do? Daniel's prophecy tells us what faithful Christians will do in these days: "But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32).