

In the **Last Days** there will be *Perilous Times*. What can we Expect?

1. We can *expect* an increasingly Decadent Society

But know this, that in the *last days* perilous times will come:
For men will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.**
And from such people turn away! (II Timothy 3:1-5)

As **He (Jesus)** was sitting on the **Mount of Olives**,
the **disciples** came to Him privately, saying,
“Tell us, when will **these things** happen,
and what *will be* the **sign of Your coming**, and of the **end of the age?**...”

...Because lawlessness is *increased*, most **people’s love** will *grow cold*.
(Matthew 24:3, 12)

2. We can *expect* an increasing Hostility to the things of God

If **you** were of the **world**, the **world** would *love* its own;
but because you are **not** of the **world**, but **I chose you** out of the **world**,
because of this the **world hates you**...(John 15:9)

This is the **judgment**, that **Light** has come into the **world**,
and men love the darkness rather than the Light, for their **deeds** were **evil**.
For everyone who does **evil hates the Light**,...(John 3:19-20a)

And just as **they (the unrighteous)** did **not** see fit to **acknowledge God** any longer, **God gave them over** to a **depraved mind**,..

being filled with **all unrighteousness, wickedness,.. they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,..**
(Romans 1:28-30)

3. We can *expect* the Persecution of Believers

“**Blessed** are those who have been persecuted for the sake of **righteousness**, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.”

“**Blessed** are you when *people insult you* and **persecute you**,
and **falsely say** all kinds of **evil against you** because of **Me**.

Rejoice and **be glad**, for **your reward** in heaven is **great**;
for in the **same way** they **persecuted the prophets**
who were **before you**. (Matthew 5:10-12)

Indeed, **all** who desire to **live godly** in **Messiah Jesus**
will be **persecuted**. (II Timothy 3:12)

For to **you** it has been granted for **Messiah’s sake**,
not only to **believe in Him**, but also to **suffer** for **His sake**,
(Philippians 1:29)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** among you,
which comes upon you for **your testing**,
as though some **strange thing** were happening to **you**;

but to the degree that **you share** the **sufferings of Messiah**,
keep on **rejoicing**, so that also at the **revelation of His glory**
you may rejoice with exultation.

If **you** are **reviled** for the **name of Messiah**, **you are blessed**,
because the **Spirit of glory** and of **God rests on you**.
(I Peter 4:12-14)

4. We can **expect Apostasy** in the **Church**

As **He (Jesus)** was sitting on the **Mount of Olives**,
the **disciples** came to **Him** privately, saying,
“Tell us, **when will these things** happen,
and what *will be* the **sign of Your coming**, and of the **end of the age?**”

And **Jesus** answered and said to them,
“See to it that **no one misleads you**.”

For **many** will come in **My name**, saying, ‘**I am the Messiah**,’
and will **mislead many**...

At that time **many will fall away**
and will **betray one another** and **hate one another**.
Many **false prophets** will **arise** and will **mislead many**.
(Matthew 24:3-5, 10-11)

Let **no one** in any way **deceive you**,
for **it** (the **day of the Lord**) *will not come* unless the **apostasy** comes first,
and the **man of lawlessness** is **revealed**, the **son of destruction**
(II Thessalonians 2:3)

...**preach the word**; be ready in **season and out of season**;
reprove, rebuke, exhort, with **great patience and instruction**.

For **the time** will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**;
but *wanting* to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate
for themselves **teachers** in accordance to their **own desires**,
and will **turn away their ears** from the **truth** and will **turn aside** to **myths**.
(II Timothy 4:2-4)

5. **We can expect the *increasing* Judgment of God** (upon *both*
the **Church** and the **World**)

For *it is* time for **judgment** to **begin** with the **household of God**;
and if *it begins* with ***us first***, what *will be* the outcome for **those**
who **do not obey** the **gospel of God**? (I Peter 5:17)

For the **wrath of God** is **revealed** from **heaven** against all ungodliness
and **unrighteousness of men** who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,...

For even though **they knew God**, they **did not honor Him as God**
or **give thanks**, but they became **futile** in their **speculations**,
and their **foolish heart** was **darkened**.
Professing to be **wise**, they became **fools**,...

Therefore **God gave them over** in the **lusts** of **their hearts** to **impurity**,
so that **their bodies** would be **dishonored** among them.

For **they exchanged** the **truth of God** for a **lie**, and **worshiped**
and **served** the **creature** rather than the **Creator**,
who is **blessed forever**. Amen. (Romans 1:18, 21-22, 24-25)

For **nation will rise against nation**,
and **kingdom against kingdom**, and in various places
there will be **famines** and **earthquakes**. But all these things
are *merely* the **beginning** of **birth pangs**...

For **then** there will be a **great tribulation (judgments)**,
such as has not occurred since the **beginning** of the world until now,
nor **ever will**. (Matthew 24:7-8, 21)

6. **We can expect the Persecution of Jews and Israel**

It will come about in **that day** that I will make **Jerusalem** a **heavy stone** for **all the peoples**; all who lift it will be **severely injured**.
and **all the nations** of the **earth** will be **gathered against it**.
(Zechariah 12:3)

“It will come about in **all the land (Israel)**,” declares **the LORD**,

“That **two parts** in it will be **cut off** and **perish**;
but the **third** will be **left in it**.”

“And I will bring the **third part** *through the fire*,

refine them as **silver** is refined, and *test them* as **gold** is tested.
They will **call on My name**, and I will answer them;
I will say, 'They are My people,'
and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" (Zechariah 13:8-9)

"But when you see **Jerusalem** surrounded by **armies**,
then recognize that **her desolation** is near.

Then **those** who are in **Judea** must flee to the **mountains**,
and **those** who are in the midst of the **city** must **leave**,
and **those** who are in the **country** must **not** enter the **city**;

because these are days of **vengeance**,
so that **all things** which are **written** will be **fulfilled**. (Luke 21:20-22)

And when the **dragon (Satan)** saw that he was **thrown down** to the **earth**,
he **persecuted** the **woman** who **gave birth** to the **male child (Jesus)**.
(Revelation 12:13)

Personal Application

We live in Perilous Times, so what do *we do*?

A. We *continue* to have Faith in God

Therefore, **those** also who **suffer** according to the **will of God**
shall **entrust their souls** to a **faithful Creator** in doing what is **right**. (1 Peter 4:19)

B. We *continue* to Function as a Community of Believers

1. **Devoting ourselves** to **learning** the **word of God** (Acts 2:42a)
2. **Devoting ourselves** to **fellowship** and **prayer** (Acts 2:42b-c)
3. **Devoting ourselves** to **meeting the needs** of **one another** (Acts 2:44-45)
4. **Devoting ourselves** to **fellowship** and the "breaking of bread"
with **one another** in **unity** and **gladness** (Acts 2: 46)
5. **Devoting ourselves** to corporate **worship** (Acts 2:47a)
6. **Becoming a corporate witness** of the **gospel** to the **community** (Acts 2:47b)

C. We *continue* to walk as **Children of "Light"** in a **dark World**

Do all things **without grumbling** or **disputing**,
so that you will **prove yourselves** to be **blameless** and **innocent**,
children of God above **reproach** in the midst of a
crooked and **perverse generation**, among whom **you appear**
as **lights in the world**, **holding fast** the **word of life**,..(Philippians 2:14-16a)

