

“Difficult Days Part 1”
2 Timothy 3:1

I. God wanted His people to know what they would be facing in the coming days (v. 1a).

- A. God’s Word provides confirmation that it is truly from God.
- B. God’s Word prepares his people for what is to come.

(Isaiah 46:8-11; Matthew 5:11-12; John 15:18-21; 16:1-4; 13:19; 14:29; Acts 5:24-30)

II. God gave His word as a description of the last days (v. 1b).

(Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:20-21; 1 John 2:18)

III. God warned that the days would be difficult (v. 1c).

- A. The last days will be difficult because of the state of people.
- B. The last days will be difficult because of the Truth will be opposed.
- C. The last days will be difficult because deception will be great.
- D. The last days will be difficult because lawlessness will grow.

(Matthew 24:9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 1 Timothy 4:1-3)

Scripture References and Notes

John 15:18-21

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹If 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. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

John 16:2-3

² They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.

John 16:1, 4

¹ “These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.

⁴ But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

John 13:19

From now on I am telling you before *it* comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*.

John 14:29

Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.

Isaiah 46:8-11

⁸ “Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. ⁹ “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; ¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it*, *surely* I will do it.

Acts 5:24-30

²⁴ And when they heard *this*, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, “O Lord, it is You who MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM, ²⁵ who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘WHY DID THE GENTILES RAGE, AND THE PEOPLES DEVISE FUTILE THINGS?’ ²⁶ ‘THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.’ ²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. ²⁹ And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, ³⁰ while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹ “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

last days [ἔσχατος (eschatos)]

- last, extreme
- last, at the last, finally, till the end.
- properly, last, final (the furthest, extreme-end).

1 John 2:18

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

difficult [χαλεπός (chalepos)]

- pertaining to being troublesome, *hard, difficult*
- *hard to deal with, violent, dangerous*
- hard, rugged, furious, ferocious
- properly, irksomely hard to bear; *fiercely* difficult to cope with because so harsh (even injurious).

Matthew 24:9-14

⁹ “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² **Because lawlessness is increased**, most people’s love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

¹ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³ *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12

¹ Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”