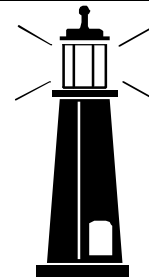


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Volume 2, Issue 28

July 20th, 2003

Are We In The "Last Days?"

Kevin Cauley

There is a national preoccupation among the religious today with "end times" and the things that are going to happen within the "last days." This national hype has been fueled by the "Left Behind" book series which is a **fictional** account of how those who believe the doctrine of premillennialism think the "end of the world" is going to occur. Many read these books, assuming that the doctrine within them is biblical and end up believing something which has no biblical support at all. One of the big questions that the proponents of the doctrine of premillennialism want us to believe is that we are in the "last days" before Jesus will return. In fact, someone recently asked me the question, "Don't you think we are in the 'last days?'" Let's look at the biblical answer to this question.

First, let me state that there is most definitely a sense in which we are in the last days. The Bible was written over a period of two thousand years and deals with several different ages in which God communicated with man. The first age was the patriarchal age. This is the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when God dealt directly with the fathers of the families. Through them God communicated His will to the rest of the family and it was their responsibility to ensure that the family learned God's word. God said concerning Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Genesis 18:19). The second age of which we read in the Bible was the Mosaic age. During this time, God communicated to the nations both

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Kevin's Korner

This past Monday, Mary Lynn and I had the wonderful opportunity to go to the Quigley/Smith farm and pick some blackberries. It was hot; there were bugs; didn't see any snakes, but we really enjoyed getting out and doing this. Kendra helped us pick a few blackberries and we then made some blackberry tea which we both liked very much. The Smiths graciously asked us to stay for dinner and we did and enjoyed a wonderful evening with them. Thank you Ken and Debbie.



This past week, as many of you already know, I had the opportunity and privilege to speak on the Northwest Arkansas Lectureship at the Bellefonte church of Christ just SouthEast of Harrison. This was the 14th annual event. Ray Crawford is the preacher at this congregation and the director. The lectures which Mary Lynn and I attended were scripturally sound and wonderfully refreshing. The ladies of that congregation did a fine job in preparing the meals for the guests. The eldership at this congregation is to be commended for having such a good program and I hope that in the future we will all make an effort to be supportive of this yearly event. I know that I am going to put it on my calendar for next year!

Our youth rally is fast approaching. It is just about a month away. Have you invited your friends yet? We will soon have some flyers for this effort and we will need to get to work to start inviting others to come and hear brother Willie Franklin preach the gospel. I mentioned this event at Bellefonte and had several say to me that they were really excited that we were going to have this and they planned on attending. We can make this our best youth rally yet. Let's both

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through written law and through inspired prophets (Jeremiah 7:25; Daniel 9:6). This was a period of national leadership as opposed to family leadership. Moses, Joshua, the judges, the kings, and the prophets were all leaders that God used to communicate with nations. The third age within the Bible is the age of Christ. In this age, God communicates to the whole world through his Son, Jesus. Hebrews 1:1,2 says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son...." In Matthew 17:5, God says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Today, in the Christian age, God communicates to man solely through the written word of His Son, Jesus. There is no other way in which God reveals His word today. This is the third and final age of God's communication with man. There is no future age (on the earth) in which God is going to speak to man in some other way. In this sense, we are in the "last days."

There is second understanding of the phrase "last days." In this sense, we do not know whether we are in the last days or not. And it is this sense of the phrase, "last days" to which most people refer today. These "last days" are the days imminently prior to the second coming of Jesus. Those who teach and preach this believe that within their lifetime, Jesus is going to return to the earth and this is what they mean by "last days." Let me clearly state that I do not know if we are in the "last days" or not because the Bible teaches that no man can know this. Jesus himself said that no man knows the day or the hour when he will return. In Matthew 24:36 we read, "But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." If Jesus himself did not know the time of his second coming, then far be it from me to say that I know the time of his coming. It could be tomorrow, but it could be 2000 years from now. We just do not know. So for us to say definitely that we are in the "last days" is to claim to know something that we cannot possibly know. We may be in the last days, but then again, we may not.

What is the important lesson that we need to draw from Jesus teaching regarding his second coming? It is that we must be ready at all times whether we are in the last days or not. It may be true that Jesus comes again before we die in which case we need to be prepared to accept His judgment of our life. However, it may be that we die before Jesus comes again. If that happens, we will still need to be ready to accept His judgment of our life. Either way, we will all be

brought before the judgment seat of Christ and give an account of our deeds done in our bodies (2 Corinthians 5:10). While we should let the second coming of Christ motivate us to faithful living, focusing upon determining when the "last days" will be is a distraction from our daily responsibilities to God (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Let us not focus upon whether we are in the "last days" or not, but rather, let us focus upon living the daily Christian life as our Lord, Jesus would want us to live it. One way or the other He will judge us. Prepare for THAT day.

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work and pray for its success.

As you may know, this past Friday we went to get Austin and Charlie. My parents graciously consented to meeting us in Tulsa. So we didn't have to drive nearly as far as we thought we were going to drive to meet them. We stayed the night Friday to visit with my grandmother, Bonnie Thetford who came with my parents to see us. We had a wonderful visit. So the boys are back home now and our family has been restored to its pre-vacation number.

Sandy and I are going to continue to make videos regarding different Bible subjects. These videos can be used for your own personal evangelism. Sandy suggested that we make a video on the question of instrumental music, so that is the next video we will be producing. After that, there are several different topics that we could discuss. I thought I would solicit your suggestions as well. If you know of a Bible topic about which you would like to have a video, please let me know and I will try to work it into our schedule. We want these videos to be useful in helping you to evangelize your friends and neighbors for the gospel of Christ.

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

IS JESUS CURRENTLY RULING UPON HIS THRONE?

Randy Kea

In a remarkable passage in Zechariah 6:12,13, the inspired prophet anticipates both the kingship and priesthood of Christ. Zechariah states, "Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne." Consider these points:

1. "The Branch" clearly refers to Christ (Compare Isaiah 11:1,2; Romans 15:12).
2. "He shall build the temple of the Lord." Jesus built His church (Matthew 16:18,19) and the church is the Lord's temple in the New Testament (Ephesians 2:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17).
3. "He shall bear the glory." Jesus entered into glory after His crucifixion, resurrection and ascension (Luke 24:26; 1 Peter 1:11).
4. "Shall sit and rule." Jesus was raised from the dead to sit upon the throne (Acts 2:29-31).
5. "He shall be a priest upon his throne." Notice that sitting, ruling and functioning as a priest were to occur at the same time. The entire book of Hebrews in the New Testament ties together the Lord's throne and His priesthood (Hebrews 8:1-5, etc.). If Jesus is not on His throne now, then He is not a priest yet. If Jesus is not our high priest, how then can we be saved? (Hebrews 4:14-16).
6. Jesus began His rule upon His throne when His kingdom (church) was established (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 29-31) on the day of Pentecost in

Acts 2, and will continue to rule until He comes again and delivers the kingdom up to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:23-26).

7. Jesus' kingdom is spiritual in nature (John 18:36) and His servants serve Him willingly (Psalms 110:1-4).

[Editor's note: Consider further

8. Jesus is now King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16).

9. Jesus kingdom is not of observation, but it is within us (Luke 17:20, 21).

10. Jesus kingdom was in existence during the time of the apostles Paul and John, because they were in it (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9).

11. Jesus must reign (1 Corinthians 15:25).

12. The kingdoms of this world now belong to Him and he reigns over them (Revelation 11:15-18).

13. Jesus has all authority in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18-20).

14. Jesus has all power and majesty (2 Peter 1:16).]

Have you submitted to His authority? (John 12:48; Mark 16:16; Heb. 5:9; Acts 2:38).

"He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power."

(1 Timothy 6:15, 16)

Sunday's Sermons

For July 20th

Morning..... **To Be Born Again**

Scripture John 3:1-7

Evening..... **Mormonism**

Scripture 1 John 4:1

Our Record

Week of 7/13

Sunday Class 51

Sunday A.M. 61

Sunday P.M. 71

Wednesday 40

Contribution \$1849.40

Budget \$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice today and praise Him.
- We want to welcome all of those who are visiting with us today. If you are visiting, please take a moment to fill out one of the cards in the back of the pew so that we may have a record of your attendance.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Summer Benedict, Ruth Hill, Preston Jones, Leonard Keck.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Our youth rally is fast approaching. Are you inviting others? August 22nd and 23rd are the dates. Willie Franklin is the speaker. Please come with an open Bible and an open mind ready to study and learn God's word.
- If you have not signed up for Art's lunch list and wish to do so, you may put your John Hancock down on the list in the foyer.
- There will be a baby shower for Tiffany Gentry Saturday, July 26th, from 2-4 PM at Tiffany Windle's home. The event is come and go.
- Our regular elders and deacons meeting is scheduled for tonight.
- Our monthly potluck is today! Please make your plans to stay with us and eat a hearty meal.
- If you would like one of the personal evangelism tapes recently made for the congregation, please see Kevin.
- There is a mission report from A.J. Hendrix in the foyer. This is his last report. Please read it if you get a chance.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Paper Plates.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	July 20th, 2003	July 27th, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clyde Atchley	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Glenn Quigley
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
	Matt Bassing	Bob Moore
(assist)	Brent Moore	Clay Bozarth
	Brent Stevens	Sandy Nieves
Closing Prayer	Rusty Windle	Larry Elliott
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Clay Bozarth
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Brent Stevens
Scripture:	Brandon Foster	Jack Gentry
Lord's Table:	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
	Dale Pinkley	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Jack Gentry	Matt Bassing
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Larry Elliott	Clay Bozarth
Invitation:	Bruce Foster	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Ray Duncan
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Bill Fort	
Worship Coordinator	Glenn Quigley	
Communion Prep	Wanda Bozarth	Joann Bragg
Communion Carry	Kevin Cauley	Hugh Atchley

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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