

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

Week 11: Infidelity Limited Victory

O God, the Creator of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you in Jesus Christ; in whose Name we pray. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR
FOR OUR ENEMIES

INFIDELITY'S LIMITED VICTORY

Outline

- The Last Days (2 Tim 3.1)
- Marks of the “Distressing Times” (2 Tim 3.2–5)
- The Limited Victory of Evil (2 Tim 3.6–9)

THE LAST DAYS

- **What is Eschatology?**
- **What are the Last Days?**
- **Distressing times**

THE LAST DAYS

What is Eschatology?

What are “The Last Days?”

Distressing Times

2 Timothy 3.1

*You must understand this, that in the last days
distressing times will come.*

THE LAST DAYS

> **What is Eschatology?**

What are “The Last Days?”

Distressing Times

What is Eschatology?

- What do you imagine when you hear the phrase “the last days?”
- Eschatology is the study of “last things”
 - *Eschaton* – Greek; “Pertaining to being the final item in a series, last” (BDAG) or “end”
 - Usually: death, intermediate state, second coming of Christ, Millennium, Final Judgment, etc.
- A better paradigm for understanding Eschatology: *Telos*

THE LAST DAYS

> What is Eschatology?

What are “The Last Days?”

Distressing Times

What is Eschatology?

- A better paradigm for understanding Eschatology: *Telos*
- *Telos* – “The goal toward which a movement is being directed, end, goal, outcome” (BDAG)
- Example: “Q1. What is the *chief end* of man?” – Westminster Shorter Catechism
- Eschatology is both “the direction and goal of God’s active covenant faithfulness in and for his created order” – Kent Bower

THE LAST DAYS

What is Eschatology?

> **What are “The Last Days?”**

Distressing Times

What are the Last Days?

- Adam and Eve exiled from Eden
- Genesis 3.15
- Abraham & his children
- Nation of Israel
- Exile, temple destroyed
- Exilic Prophets
 - Explained exile in light of God's covenant fidelity
 - Prophesied a “new exodus;” Messiah would be a new Moses, temple rebuilt, Israel vindicated.

THE LAST DAYS

What is Eschatology?

> **What are “The Last Days?”**

Distressing Times

Acts 2.17–18a

[the coming of the Holy Spirit] *is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: “in the last days it will be,” God declares, “that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.”*”

- The “Last Days” began in 1st Century
- Gospel of John: Jesus is the true temple
- Gospel of Matt: Jesus is the true and better Moses
- Gospel of Mark: Jesus’ crucifixion launches the New Exodus
- Matthew, Mark, & Luke: Jesus’ wilderness temptation recapitulates both Adam and Israel’s failure

THE LAST DAYS

What is Eschatology?

What are “The Last Days?”

> **Distressing Times**

2 Timothy 3.1

You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come.

MARKS OF THE “DISTRESSING TIMES”

- **The Bedeviled Opponents**
- **The Hollowed Out Opponents**

MARKS OF THE
“DISTRESSING TIMES”

The Bedeviled Opponents

The Hollowed-Out Opponents

2 Timothy 3.2-4

...in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

MARKS OF THE
"DISTRESSING TIMES"

> **The Bedeviled Opponents**

The Hallowed-Out Opponents

2 Timothy 3.2-4

v2a. *Disordered Loves*

Lovers of self, money

v2b. *Arrogance*

Proud, Arrogant

v2c-3a. *Recklessness*

Disobedience... irreconcilable

v3b Slanderous, *diáboloi*

v3c *Recklessness*

Uncontrollable...reckless

v4a *Arrogance*

Swollen with conceit

4b. *Disordered Loves*

Lovers of pleasure rather than God

MARKS OF THE
“DISTRESSING TIMES”

> **The Bedeviled Opponents**

The Hallowed-Out Opponents

2 Timothy 2.25-3.4

...grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil [tou diábolou], after being captured by him to do his will.

But understand this, in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous [diáboloi], without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

MARKS OF THE
“DISTRESSING TIMES”

The Bedeviled Opponents

> **The Hallowed-Out Opponents**

2 Timothy 3.5

But understand this, in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous [diáboloi], without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power.

THE OPPONENT'S LIMITED VICTORY

- **The Reason**
- **The Illustration**

THE OPPONENTS'
LIMITED VICTORY

> **The Reason for Rebuke,
Remove, Avoid**

The Illustration: Jannes and Jambres

2 Timothy 3.6–7

For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at the knowledge of truth.

THE OPPONENTS'
LIMITED VICTORY

The Reason for Rebuke, Remove,
Avoid

> **The Illustration: Jannes and
Jambres**

2 Timothy 3.8–9

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

THE OPPONENTS'
LIMITED VICTORY

The Reason for Rebuke, Remove,
Avoid

> **The Illustration: Jannes and
Jambres**

Exodus 8.17–19

Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

THE OPPONENTS'
LIMITED VICTORY

The Reason for Rebuke, Remove,
Avoid

> **The Illustration: Jannes and
Jambres**

1 Corinthians 15.20–26, 54–57

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in their own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the father, after he has destroyed every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

THE OPPONENTS'
LIMITED VICTORY

The Reason for Rebuke, Remove,
Avoid

> **The Illustration: Jannes and
Jambres**

1 Corinthians 15.20–26, 54–57

When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory; Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S SOURCES

- Augustine, *on Christian Doctrine*.
- BDAG, s.v. ἔσχατος.
- BDAG, s.v. Τέλος.
- Gordon Fee, *1–2 Timothy, Titus*. Good News Commentary.
- Kent E. Bower, “Eschatology,” *The Reader Must Understand: Eschatology in Bible and Theology*.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*. Vol. 46 in Word Biblical Commentary.