

Verse 7

The Bible indicates that there are 2 ages: this age and the age to come.

- **Matthew 12:32** Whoever ^[a]speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever ^[b]speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age to come*.
- **Luke 20:34-35** Jesus said to them, "The sons **of this age** marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain **to that age** and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage;
- **Ephesians 1:21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only **in this age but also in the one to come.**
- **Mark 10:28-30** Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, ³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now **in ^[u]the present age**, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; **and in the age to come, eternal life.**

The Bible indicates the Kingdom of God is in the future

- **Luke 22:15-18** And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, **I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**" ¹⁷ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; ¹⁸ for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on **until the kingdom of God comes.**"
- **Mark 10:17-24** As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, **what shall I do to inherit eternal life?**" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments, 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰ And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up." ²¹ Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But at these words ^[h] he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property. ²³ And Jesus, looking around, *said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy **to enter the kingdom of God!**" ²⁴ The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus *answered again and *said to them, "Children, **how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!**
- **1 Corinthians 15:50** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the **kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
- **Revelation 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the **kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

The Bible indicates that the Kingdom of God has come at the first advent of Christ

- **Matthew 12:28** But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- **Mark 1:14-15** Now after John had been ^[a]taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, ^[b]preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God ^[c]is at hand**; repent and ^[d]believe in the gospel."
- **Luke 10:8-9** Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, **'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'**
- **Luke 17:20-11** Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with ^[a]signs to be observed; ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, **the kingdom of God is ^[a]i your midst.**"

The Bible records that we are in the "last days"

- **1 Peter 1:20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared ^[a]**in these last times** for the sake of you

- **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**.
- **Hebrews 1:1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ^{2[a]}**in these last days** has spoken to us ^[a]in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ^[a]world.
- **2 Timothy 3:1** But realize this, that in the **last days** difficult times will come.
- **Acts 2:16-17** but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:¹⁷ **'And it shall be in the last days,'** God says, 'That I will pour forth of My Spirit on all ^[a]mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸Even on My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit And they shall prophesy.

The time from the coming of Jesus to earth until His return on the last day is considered "the last days." It may seem difficult to understand and process that the last days have lasted for over 2,000 years. People have scoffed about His return all the way back to 1st century A.D. Peter was used to this type of ridicule about the length of time that had passed from the promise of Christ's return. This is what he had in mind in 2 Peter 3.

- **2 Peter 3:3-9** Know this first of all, **that in the last days** mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ⁵For ^[a]when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.⁸But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that **with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.** ⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2,000 of the "the last days" would be like 2 days to the Lord! The end of all things is near as we are in the last days.

What is the response of the Christian in light of the thought of the end of all things being near?

- **Be of sound judgment**- Carefully consider our actions in response to obedience to God
- **Be sober in spirit for the purpose of prayer**-Pray without ceasing (**1 Thess 5:17**) and be devoted to prayer (**Romans 12:12**). When our minds are fixed on Him including in prayer, we have peace in even the most difficult situations.
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all ^[a]comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul uses similar language in Romans 13:11-14.

- **Romans 13:11-14** *Do* this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now ^[a]salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. ¹²The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us ^[b]behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

Paul uses a comparison between the day and night. He is describing the time that has passed in our lives since our salvation as the night. **He is implying that we are in the last watch of the night and the dawn of our full salvation is about to shine forth!**

*We are closer to Heaven than we have ever been. We are inching closer and closer to our glorification and the completion of our salvation. Therefore, we don't lose heart, but rather set our thoughts and attention on our inheritance that awaits even in the middle of suffering. While we wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies in glory, we are to continue to grow in sanctification, for this is the will of God.

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus.**