

Lecture 16 Jesus' teaching regarding the Last Days

Extra Notes:

17:37 Where, Lord? The disciples ask where the judgment will occur. **the eagles will be gathered:** Jesus does not answer the question directly. The term for eagles refers to vultures who gather over dead corpses. In effect, Jesus says that when the judgment comes, it will be final and tragic with the stench of death and the presence of vultures everywhere. Again, one will not need to look for it; the birds will reveal its presence. This language is heavily pictorial to evoke the foreboding mood of the climactic events described. Jesus brings salvation but also judgment, which is why a decision about Him is so important. He brings the kingdom (v. 20), and one either is with Him or suffers the fate of judgment.¹

17:37. The disciples questioned **where** these people would be taken. Jesus' cryptic answer, **Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather**—has been interpreted variously. It seems best to understand that Jesus was reaffirming that these people would be taken into judgment. Much as a dead body causes vultures to “gather” on it, so dead people are consigned to judgment if they are not ready for the kingdom (cf. Matt. 24:28; Rev. 19:17-19).²

Verses using “last days” (NIV)

(Isa 2:2 NIV) In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

(Hosea 3:5 NIV) Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

¹Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. 1999. *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary*. T. Nelson Publishers: Nashville

cf. *confer*, compare

²Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

(Micah 4:1 NIV) In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

(Acts 2:17 NIV) "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

(2 Tim 3:1 NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

(Heb 1:2 NIV) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

(James 5:3 NIV) Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

(2 Pet 3:3 NIV) First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

Verses using "last times" (NIV)

(1 Pet 1:5 NIV) who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Pet 1:20 NIV) He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

(Jude 1:18 NIV) They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."