

**BETTER TIMES
COMING; OR, MORE
ON PROPHECY**

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Better Times Coming; Or, More on Prophecy by Anonymous

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MORE ON PROPHECY;
OR,
BETTER TIMES COMING.

CHAPTER I.

IN studying authors of great wisdom and understanding, I find that they all appear to be too prudent to give anything like a definite meaning to the Scripture terms which they profess to handle. There are four very important times spoken of in Scripture; the last days, the last end of the indignation, the time of the end, and the times of the restitution of all things. I can find no author who has given either the true meaning of these terms, or the dates of their commencement and end.

If any one would understand prophecy, it is of the highest importance that he should possess a clear knowledge of the meaning of these terms. First, then, what is meant by the "last days?" The term last days, unmistakeably implies that there have been former days, he who understands what is meant by "former days" will very easily understand what is meant by "latter days." From the Scriptures themselves, independent of all authors, and contrary to

many, I gather that the first days began with the first Adam, and ended with the birth of the second Adam, and that the last days began with the second Adam, and will end when He shall appear in the clouds of heaven. The first days were about four thousand years, and the last days are about three thousand two hundred and thirty one years (I am not particular in either case to half a hebdomad), so the former and the latter days together are about seven thousand two hundred and thirty one years. When we compare this Scripture, "Gather yourselves together, ye sons of Jacob, and I will tell you what shall befall you in the last days" (Gen. xlix.) with this, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son" (Heb. i.), we find that the first days ended, and the last began when Christ was born. It follows that all time may be divided into two periods: before Christ and after Christ, and I may say of these what Moses, Jesus Christ, and Paul, said of the kingdom of God, "it is in thy heart, and in thy mouth, it is within you, it is among you." But what strange use, indeed, do some persons make of the term, "last days." Now, if we understand the term "last days" to mean the time from the birth of Christ, to the year three thousand two hundred and thirty one, (when the sun shall cease to shine, when seed time and harvest, day and night, summer and winter, shall end, and the Lord shall appear in the clouds of heaven); if we take this view to be correct, how plain many other

Scriptures will appear, which otherwise we could not understand. All events that take place after the birth of Christ, and before He comes in the clouds of heaven at the end of time, take place in the last days; how is it then that certain learned writers upon prophecy assert that the Scriptures refer to events now taking place, and that they cannot refer to events that took place a thousand years ago, "because," say these writers, "it is emphatically said in the last days." Let my readers understand, that things which took place a thousand years ago took place in the last days; and that things which shall take place a thousand years hence will also take place in the last days. St. Paul lived in these last days; we live in these last days; Simeon lived in these last days; and in these last days he took Jesus in his arms, and said to His mother, "This child is set for the falling and rising again of many in Israel;" and many in Israel fell in the last days, and many of Israel must rise in the last days. Jerusalem was destroyed in the last days, and it must be rebuilt in the last days. Wherever the term occurs in the Bible, it always refers to the time from the birth of Christ to the end of all things. I have not yet seen a satisfactory comment on 29th Genesis. There is always some mystery observed about the "last days," so as not to take away the freedom of action. Jacob does not tell his sons exactly what shall befall them, "Gather yourselves together ye sons of Jacob, and I will tell you what shall befall you in the last days." But he only told