

# The School of Prophecy – Part 2

June 5, 2016

## Lesson 1: The Last Days will be Fierce

**2 Timothy 3:1-9 NKJV** - *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup>traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! <sup>6</sup>For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, <sup>7</sup>always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup>Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; <sup>9</sup>but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.*

The New Testament states the condition of the world will be treacherous in the Last Days, prior to the coming of the Lord. There will be tremendous changes taking place so rapidly that it will be hard to keep up with it all. These changes will occur politically, economically, socially and also in the religious world. To understand what is happening, we must have insight from God's Word to give us a spirit of discernment. These are fierce times and we must be equipped to stand strong for God.

### I. Perilous Times will Come

#### A. The Spirit of the Age

1. Perilous (chalepos) – harsh; savage; difficult; dangerous; painful; fierce; grievous; hard to deal with; a high-risk period
2. The word translated “perilous” occurs in only one other place in the New Testament.

**Matthew 8:28 NKJV** - *When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.*

3. We are living in fierce times, and they are going to get worse as we move closer to the coming of the Lord.

#### B. The Root Cause of Fierce Times

1. The character of men will become more corrupt as the age draws to a close.
2. A prominent feature is that people will have lost natural affection. The root cause of this is selfishness. It manifests itself in various forms of self-expression.
3. The degeneration of human character is based upon the love of self, the love of money, and the love of pleasure.

**1 John 2: 15-16 NKJV** - *<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

4. Evil men and seducers will be much worse at the end of the age. The evil condition of humanity will gain a rate of speed that is alarming.

**2 Timothy 3:13 NKJV** - *But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

C. The Occult Surge

1. The word “seducers” refers to someone who uses incantation, sorcery, magic, and spells.

It refers to the spirit of wizardry.

**Isaiah 8:19 NKJV** - *And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?*

2. The Last Days will be characterized by an increase in occultism. This demonic activity will captivate the minds and souls of many people, as they give heed to it.

**2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV** - *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.*

3. Jesus warned His disciples that prior to His second coming, there would be a strong spiritual deception that could even deceive the elect.

**Matthew 24:24 NKJV** - *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

4. This Last Days deception will not unfold all at once, but rather it will be a gradual descent into darkness.

**Isaiah 8:22 NKJV** - *Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.*

**Isaiah 60:1-2 NKJV** - *Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*

5. Paul’s word to Timothy was that in the Last Days, a worldwide impact of occultism would occur. It would influence government, education, and society as a whole.

D. We Must Walk in God’s Wisdom

**Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJV** - *<sup>15</sup> See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

1. We must walk circumspectly. The idea is to be alert and cautious, as if we were walking through thorny terrain.
2. We must redeem the time. This means we must seize every opportunity to work for God, for we only have a limited amount of time to fulfill Christ’s purposes.