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The Last Days

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In this [study](study.html) I would like to examine what [HaShem](hashem.html) has to say about the [last days](lastdays.html). Lets start by looking at a different translation of a very familiar verse:

***Genesis 4:3*** *At the* [*time*](time.html) *of the end Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an* [*offering*](korbanot) *to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

I am not quite sure how to understand the verse above because we [know](daat.html) that Cain brought his [offering](korbanot) when the [world](worlds.html) was young. Perhaps Cain is a [type](types.html) of the [wicked](wicked.html).

Genesis [forty](forty.html)-[nine](nine.html) is a classical example of end [time](time.html) prophecy which is often overlooked. In this prophecy [Jacob](israelja.html) looks down through [time](time.html) to describe what will happen to his children, the [tribes](tribes.html), in the ‘[end of days](lastdays.html)’. We can use this prophecy to identify ALL of the [tribes](tribes.html) when we get to the [end of days](lastdays.html):

***Genesis 49:1-2*** *Then* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *called for his sons and said: “*[*Gather*](gather.html) *around so I can tell you what will happen to you in days to come. “Assemble and listen, sons of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*; listen to your father Israel.*

***Genesis 49:3-4*** *“****Reuben****, you are my firstborn, my might, the* [*first*](one.html)[*sign*](signs.html) *of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power. Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father’s bed, onto my couch and defiled it.*

***Genesis 49:5-7*** *“****Simeon*** *and* ***Levi*** *are brothers--their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstrung oxen as they pleased. Cursed be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *and disperse them in Israel.*

***Genesis 49:8-12*** *“****Judah****, your brothers will praise you; your* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *will be on the* [*neck*](body.html) *of your enemies; your father’s sons will bow down to you. You are a lion’s cub, O* ***Judah****; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness--who dares to rouse him? The scepter will not depart from* ***Judah****, nor the ruler’s* [*staff*](staff.html) *from between his* [*feet*](heel.html)*, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the* [*nations*](nations.html) *is his. He will tether his* [*donkey*](chamor.html) *to a vine, his colt to the choicest branch; he will wash his garments in wine, his robes in the* [*blood*](body.html) *of grapes. His* [*eyes*](body.html) *will be darker than wine, his* [*teeth*](body.html) *whiter than milk.*

***Genesis 49:13*** *“****Zebulun*** *will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships; his border will extend toward Sidon.*

***Genesis 49:14*** *“****Issachar*** *is a rawboned* [*donkey*](chamor.html)[*lying down*](mashal.html) *between* [*two*](two.html) *saddlebags. When he sees how good is his resting place and how pleasant is his land, he will bend his shoulder to the burden and submit to forced labor.*

***Genesis 49:16-18*** *“****Dan*** *will provide justice for his people as* [*one*](one.html) *of the* [*tribes*](tribes.html) *of Israel.* ***Dan*** *will be a serpent by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse’s* [*heels*](heel.html) *so that its rider tumbles backward. “I look for your deliverance,* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

***Genesis 49:19*** *“****Gad*** *will be attacked by a band of raiders, but he will* [*attack*](attacks.html) *them at their heels.*

***Genesis 49:20*** *“****Asher’s***[*food*](food.html) *will be rich; he will provide delicacies fit for a king.*

***Genesis 49:21*** *“****Naphtali*** *is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.*

***Genesis 49:22-26*** *“*[***Joseph***](joseph.html) *is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong* [*arms*](body.html) *stayed limber, because of the* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *of the Mighty* [*One*](one.html) *of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*, because of the Shepherd, the* [*Rock*](rock.html) *of Israel, Because of your father’s God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and* [*womb*](thebirth.html)*. Your father’s blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the* [*head*](body.html) *of* [*Joseph*](joseph.html)*, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.*

***Genesis 49:27-28*** *“*[***Benjamin***](benyamin.html) *is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he devours the prey, in the evening he divides the plunder.” All these are the* [*twelve*](twelve.html)[*tribes*](tribes.html) *of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, giving each the blessing appropriate to him.*

In this next passage we have an idolater foretelling what will happen to [HaShem’s](hashem.html) people in the [future](future.html):

[***Numbers***](nchart.html) ***24:12-24*** *Balaam answered Balak, “Did I not tell the messengers you sent me, ‘Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the* [*command*](cmds613.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*--and I must say only what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says’? Now I am going back to my people, but come, let me warn you of what this people will do to your people in days to come.” Then he uttered his oracle: “The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of* [*one*](one.html) *whose* [*eye*](body.html) *sees clearly, The oracle of* [*one*](one.html) *who hears the words of God, who has* [*knowledge*](knowledge.html) *from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose* [*eyes*](body.html) *are opened: “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A* [*star*](mazaroth.html) *will come out of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of* [*Moab*](stages.html)*, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth.* [*Edom*](edom.html) *will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. A ruler will come out of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html) *and destroy the survivors of the* [*city*](city.html)*.” Then Balaam saw* [*Amalek*](amalek.html) *and uttered his oracle: “*[*Amalek*](amalek.html) *was* [*first*](one.html) *among the* [*nations*](nations.html)*, but he will come to ruin at last.” Then he saw the Kenites and uttered his oracle: “Your* [*dwelling*](dwelling.html) *place is secure, your nest is set in a* [*rock*](rock.html)*; Yet you Kenites will be destroyed when Asshur takes you captive.” Then he uttered his oracle: “Ah, who can live when God does this? Ships will come from the shores of Kittim; they will subdue Asshur and Eber, but they too will come to ruin.”*

The Creator implores us:[[2]](#footnote-2) “My people, please remember what Balak King of [Moab](stages.html) counseled and what Balaam son of Be’or answered him, from the Sheettim to the Gilgal, so that you may [know](daat.html) the charities of God”. In other words, we must always remember that terrible [event](feasts.html), when Balak hired Balaam to curse us. We must [know](daat.html) how close we were to obliteration, how imminent it was that the curses would be manifest in us and never leave us. “But God your Lord inverted for you the curse into blessing because God your Lord loves you”.[[3]](#footnote-3) If not for this, the curses would have truly been manifest. There was no other solution to [save](salvation.html) us from them, only to transform them into blessings. Alas, “All of them reverted to curse”.[[4]](#footnote-4) After God had inverted them into blessing because He loves us, the [sin](sin.html) of the Daughters of [Moab](stages.html) reinstated them. This [type](types.html) of [sin](sin.html) removes His love for us, as Balaam had said to Balak, “The Lord of these people hates immorality”.[[5]](#footnote-5) Once the cause for the inversion was nullified, the entire blessing reverted to curse.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Moses is now going warn Israel about what will happen to them in the [future](future.html). He will detail the circumstances of their [redemption](redemption.html). It is important to keep in mind that I believe Israel is composed of all those who are saved by [grace](grace.html) through faith:

***Deuteronomy 4:26-31*** *I call* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the* [*Jordan*](stages.html) *to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the* [*nations*](nations.html) *to which* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or* [*eat*](eating.html) *or smell. But if from there you seek* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your* [*heart*](body.html) *and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God and obey him. For* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *with your* [*forefathers*](fathers.html)*, which he confirmed to them by oath.*

Moses did not pull any punches with his warning to Israel for the [future](future.html) evil ways:

***Deuteronomy 31:24-29*** *After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this* [*law*](law.html) *from beginning to end, He gave this* [*command*](cmds613.html) *to the Levites who carried the* [*ark*](ark.html) *of the* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*: “Take this* [*Book of the Law*](law.html) *and place it beside the* [*ark*](ark.html) *of the* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God. There it will remain as a witness against you. For I* [*know*](daat.html) *how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die! Assemble before me all the elders of your* [*tribes*](tribes.html) *and all your officials, so that I can* [*speak*](mashal.html) *these words in their hearing and call* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *and earth to testify against them. For I* [*know*](daat.html) *that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall upon you because you will do evil in the sight of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *and provoke him to anger by what your* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *have made.”*

***Isaiah 2:1-5*** *This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*: In the* [*last days*](lastdays.html) *the mountain of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*’s* [*temple*](temple.html) *will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all* [*nations*](nations.html) *will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, to* [*the house*](mikdash.html) *of the God of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*. He will* [*teach*](teacher.html) *us his ways, so that we may* [*walk*](walking.html) *in his paths.” The* [*law*](law.html) *will go out from Zion, the word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *from* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*. He will judge between the* [*nations*](nations.html) *and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.* [*Nation*](nations.html) *will not take up sword against* [*nation*](nations.html)*, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*, let us* [*walk*](walking.html) *in the* [*light*](lights.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

***Jeremiah 23:15-22*** *Therefore, this is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Almighty says concerning the prophets: “I will make them* [*eat*](eating.html) *bitter* [*food*](food.html) *and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *ungodliness has spread throughout the land.” This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Almighty says: “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They* [*speak*](mashal.html) *visions from their own minds, not from the* [*mouth*](body.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. They keep saying to those who despise me, ‘*[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: You will have peace.’ And to all who follow the stubbornness of their* [*hearts*](body.html) *they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’ But which of them has stood in the council of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word? See, the storm of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*. The anger of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his* [*heart*](body.html)*. In days to come you will understand it clearly. I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not* [*speak*](mashal.html) *to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.*

***Jeremiah 30:22 - 31:9*** *“‘So you will be my people, and I will be your God.’” See, the storm of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will burst out in wrath, a driving wind swirling down on the* [*heads*](body.html) *of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*. The fierce anger of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will not turn back until he fully accomplishes the purposes of his* [*heart*](body.html)*. In days to come you will understand this. “At that* [*time*](time.html)*,” declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, “I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they will be my people.” This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: “The people who survive the sword will find favor in the desert; I will come to give rest to Israel.”* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O* [*Virgin*](virgin.html) *Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful. Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit. There will be a day when watchmen* [*cry*](mashal.html) *out on the hills of Ephraim, ‘Come, let us go up to* [*Zion*](city.html)*, to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *our God.’” This is what* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *says: “Sing with joy for* [*Jacob*](israelja.html)*; shout for the foremost of the* [*nations*](nations.html)*. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘*[*HaShem*](hashem.html)*,* [*save*](salvation.html) *your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and* [*gather*](gather.html) *them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with* [*weeping*](mashal.html)*; they will* [*pray*](prayer.html) *as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel’s father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son. “Hear the word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, O* [*nations*](nations.html)*; proclaim it in distant coastlands: ‘He who scattered Israel will* [*gather*](gather.html) *them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.’*

***Jeremiah 48:47*** *“Yet I will restore the fortunes of* [*Moab*](stages.html) *in days to come,” declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Here ends the judgment on* [*Moab*](stages.html)*.*

***Jeremiah 49:39*** *“Yet I will restore the fortunes of Elam in days to come,” declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*.*

***Ezekiel 38:16*** *You will advance against my people Israel like a* [*cloud*](important.html) *that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against* [*my land*](city.html)*, so that the* [*nations*](nations.html) *may* [*know*](daat.html) *me when I show myself holy through you before their* [*eyes*](body.html)*.*

***Daniel 2:27-45*** *Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, But there is a God in* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your* [*dream*](dreams.html) *and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these: “As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may* [*know*](daat.html) *the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind. “You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue,* [*awesome*](awesome.html) *in appearance. The* [*head*](body.html) *of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and* [*arms*](body.html) *of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, Its* [*legs*](body.html) *of iron, its* [*feet*](heel.html) *partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a* [*rock*](rock.html) *was cut out, but not by human* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*. It struck the statue on its* [*feet*](heel.html) *of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same* [*time*](time.html) *and became like chaff on a* [*threshing floor*](temple.html) *in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the* [*rock*](rock.html) *that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. “This was the* [*dream*](dreams.html)*, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *has given you dominion and power and might and glory; In your* [*hands*](fourteen.html) *he has placed mankind and the beasts of the* [*field*](field.html) *and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that* [*head*](body.html) *of gold. “After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a* [*third*](three.html) *kingdom,* [*one*](one.html) *of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a* [*fourth*](four.html) *kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the* [*feet*](heel.html) *and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. “In the* [*time*](time.html) *of those kings, the God of* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the* [*rock*](rock.html) *cut out of a mountain, but not by human* [*hands*](fourteen.html)*--a* [*rock*](rock.html) *that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the* [*future*](future.html)*. The* [*dream*](dreams.html) *is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”*

***Daniel 8:16-27*** *And I heard a man’s voice from the Ulai calling, “*[*Gabriel*](angels.html)*, tell this man the meaning of the vision.” As he came near the place where I was* [*standing*](mashal.html)*, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,” he said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the* [*time*](time.html) *of the end.” While he was* [*speaking*](mashal.html) *to me, I was in a deep* [*sleep*](mashal.html)*, with my* [*face*](body.html) *to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my* [*feet*](heel.html)*. He said: “I am going to tell you what will happen later in the* [*time*](time.html) *of wrath, because the vision concerns the* [*appointed time*](time.html) *of the end. The* [*two*](two.html)*-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large* [*horn*](shofar.html) *between his* [*eyes*](body.html) *is the* [*first*](one.html) *king. The* [*four*](four.html) *horns that replaced the* [*one*](one.html) *that was broken off represent* [*four*](four.html) *kingdoms that will emerge from his* [*nation*](nations.html) *but will not have the same power. “In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. “The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant* [*future*](future.html)*.” I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ill for several days. Then I got up and went about the king’s business. I was appalled by the vision; it was beyond understanding.*

***Daniel 12:6-13***[*One*](one.html) *of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right* [*hand*](mashal.html) *and his left* [*hand*](mashal.html) *toward* [*heaven*](heaven.html)*, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a* [*time*](time.html)*, times and half a* [*time*](time.html)*. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.” I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the* [*time*](time.html) *of the end. Many will be* [*purified*](purity.html)*, made spotless and refined, but the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will continue to be* [*wicked*](wicked.html)*. None of the* [*wicked*](wicked.html) *will understand, but those who are wise will understand. “From the* [*time*](time.html) *that the daily* [*sacrifice*](korbanot.html) *is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Blessed is the* [*one*](one.html) *who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted* [*inheritance*](inherit.html)*.”*

***Hosea 3:1-5***[*HaShem*](hashem.html) *said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” So I bought her for* [*fifteen*](fifteen.html) *shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be* [*intimate*](marriageact.html) *with any man, and I will live with you.” For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without* [*sacrifice*](korbanot.html) *or sacred stones, without ephod or* [*idol*](idolatry.html)*. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *their God and* [*David*](fathers.html) *their king. They will come trembling to* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *and to his blessings in the* [*last days*](lastdays.html)*.*

***Joel 2:15-32*** *Blow the* [*trumpet*](shofar.html) *in* [*Zion*](city.html)*, declare a holy fast, call a* [*sacred assembly*](rehearse.html)*.* [*Gather*](gather.html) *the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders,* [*gather*](gather.html) *the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the* [*priests*](priests.html)*, who minister before* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*,* [*weep*](mashal.html) *between the* [*temple*](temple.html) *porch and the altar. Let them say, ‘Spare your people,* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. Do not make your* [*inheritance*](inherit.html) *an object of scorn, a byword among the* [*nations*](nations.html)*. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ Then* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will reply to them: ‘I am sending you grain,* [*new*](new.html) *wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the* [*nations*](nations.html)*. ‘I will drive the northern army far from you, pushing it into a parched and barren land, with its front columns going into the* [*eastern*](east.html) *sea and those in the rear into the western sea. And its stench will go up; its smell will rise.’ Surely he has done great things. Be not afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Surely* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *has done great things. Be not afraid, O wild animals, for the open pastures are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the* [*fig tree*](bethphag.html) *and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, O people of* [*Zion*](city.html)*, rejoice in* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, for he has given you the autumn* [*rains*](rains.html) *in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring* [*rains*](rains.html)*, as before. The* [*threshing floors*](temple.html) *will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with* [*new*](new.html) *wine and oil. ‘I will repay you for the years the locusts have* [*eaten*](eating.html)*--the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm--my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to* [*eat*](eating.html)*, until you are full, and you will praise the* [*name*](name.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. Then you will* [*know*](daat.html) *that I am in Israel, that I am* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed. ‘And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will* [*dream*](dreams.html)[*dreams*](dreams.html)*, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *and on the earth,* [*blood*](body.html) *and* [*fire*](fire.html) *and billows of smoke. The* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will be turned to darkness and the* [*moon to blood*](chodesh.html) *before the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the great and dreadful* [*day*](day.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*. And everyone who calls on the* [*name*](name.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will be* [*saved*](salvation.html)*; for on Mount Zion and in* [*Jerusalem*](city.html) *there will be deliverance, as* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *has said, among the survivors whom* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *calls.*

***Micah 4:1-7*** *In the* [*last days*](lastdays.html) *the mountain of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*’s* [*temple*](temple.html) *will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many* [*nations*](nations.html) *will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, to the* [*house of the God of Jacob*](israelja.html)*. He will* [*teach*](teacher.html) *us his ways, so that we may* [*walk*](walking.html) *in his paths.” The* [*law*](law.html) *will go out from Zion, the word of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *from* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong* [*nations*](nations.html) *far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.* [*Nation*](nations.html) *will not take up sword against* [*nation*](nations.html)*, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own* [*fig tree*](bethphag.html)*, and no* [*one*](one.html) *will make them afraid, for* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *Almighty has spoken. All the* [*nations*](nations.html) *may* [*walk*](walking.html) *in the* [*name*](name.html) *of their gods; we will* [*walk*](walking.html) *in the* [*name*](name.html) *of* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *our God for ever and ever. “In that day,” declares* [*HaShem*](hashem.html)*, “I will* [*gather*](gather.html) *the lame; I will assemble the* [*exiles*](galuyot.html) *and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong* [*nation*](nations.html)*.* [*HaShem*](hashem.html) *will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.*

***Acts 2:14-20*** *Then Peter stood up with the* [*Eleven*](eleven.html)*, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow* [*Jews*](gen-jew.html) *and all of you who live in* [*Jerusalem*](city.html)*, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only* [*nine*](nine.html) *in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “‘In the* [*last days*](lastdays.html)*, 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.html)[*dreams*](dreams.html)*. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the* [*heaven*](heaven.html) *above and* [*signs*](signs.html) *on the earth below,* [*blood*](body.html) *and* [*fire*](fire.html) *and billows of smoke. The* [*sun*](hachama.html) *will be turned to darkness and the* [*moon*](chodesh.html) *to* [*blood*](body.html) *before the* [*coming*](coming.html) *of the great and glorious* [*day of the Lord*](day.html)*.*

This next [one](one.html) should be easy to determine whether we are in the last [days](lastdays.html):

***II Timothy 3:1-9*** *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the* [*last days*](lastdays.html)*. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, Without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, Treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- Having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, who are loaded down with* [*sins*](sin.html) *and are swayed by all kinds of evil* [*desires*](needs.html)*, Always learning but never able to* [*acknowledge*](knowledge.html) *the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth--men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.*

[***Hebrews***](bereans.html) ***1:1-2*** *In the past God* [*spoke*](mashal.html) *to our* [*forefathers*](fathers.html) *through the prophets at many times and in various ways, But in these* [*last days*](lastdays.html) *he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he* [*appointed*](settimes.html) *heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.*

***James 5:1-8*** *Now listen, you rich people,* [*weep*](mashal.html) *and wail because of the misery that is* [*coming*](coming.html) *upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have* [*eaten*](eating.html) *your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and* [*eat*](eating.html) *your flesh like* [*fire*](fire.html)*. You have hoarded wealth in the* [*last days*](lastdays.html)*. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are* [*crying*](mashal.html) *out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the* [*ears*](body.html) *of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you. Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s* [*coming*](coming.html)*. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring* [*rains*](rains.html)*. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s* [*coming*](coming.html) *is near.*

***II Peter 3:1-14*** *Dear friends, this is now my second* [*letter*](letters.html) *to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the* [*command*](cmds613.html) *given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.* [*First*](one.html) *of all, you must understand that in the* [*last days*](lastdays.html) *scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil* [*desires*](needs.html)*. They will say, “Where is this ‘*[*coming*](coming.html)*’ he promised? Ever since our* [*fathers*](fathers.html) *died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of* [*creation*](bara.html)*.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the* [*world*](worlds.html) *of that* [*time*](time.html) *was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *and earth are reserved for* [*fire*](fire.html)*, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not forget this* [*one*](one.html) *thing, dear friends: With the Lord a* [*day*](day.html) *is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the* [*day of the Lord*](day.html) *will come like a thief. The* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives As you look forward to the day of God and speed its* [*coming*](coming.html)*. That day will bring about the destruction of the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a* [*new*](new.html)[*heaven*](heaven.html) *and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

**\* \* \***

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1. From the Artscroll Tanak series on Joshua [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Micha 6:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Debarim (Deuteronomy) 23:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Sanhedrin 105b [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Sanhedrin 106a [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Reflexions & Introspection Elul, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkos*, Torah Insights of Hagon HaGadol Rav Moshe Shapiro, by Moshe Antebi [↑](#footnote-ref-6)