

2021: Saturday, 10/9 at 4:00 & Sunday, 10/10 at 9:00



**Series:** Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line?

# The Last Days

## Now and In Between

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Scripture: NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Imagine that *creation to Jesus' return* is like *one lap around a HUGE racetrack*:

- Starting line: *Creation*
- First turn: *Fall and promise*
- Second turn: *Worldwide flood*
- Third turn: *OT Messianic reminders*
- Fourth turn: *Jesus' B – L – D – R – A*
- Home stretch: *God's call to repent and believe*
- Finish line: *Jesus' return*



We are on the **home stretch**. Peter ([Acts 2:17](#); [2 Peter 3:3](#)) and James ([5:3](#)) called the **home stretch** *the last days*. Paul viewed his life as a race, *and he was determined to win* ([1Co. 9:24](#)). In [Hebrews 12:1](#), we are told *how to run*: “...lay aside [every encumbrance](#) [everything weighing us down] and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Some Biblical advice:

1. **Baptize and Teach:** Jesus said to His disciples: **Matthew 28:19-20** “Go... and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I commanded you....”
  - a. **Why baptize and teach?** The HS works through **baptizing** and **teaching** to **make** and **grow** disciples!
  - b. **How are YOU growing as a disciple?** (Learning, Living)
  - c. **How are YOU helping others be disciples?** (Sharing, Talking, Studying, Calling to Repent)
  
2. **Keep Assembling Together:** The Bible says:
  - a. **Hebrews 10:23** “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is **faithful...**” // As Bible-believing Christians, we are sure of **who** Jesus is, **what** He has done, and **the** gift of eternal life, so, **NO MATTER WHAT, we are holding fast!** If YOU are not, ***I strongly encourage you to REPENT!***
  - b. **Hebrews 10:25** “...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” // When a person does NOT assemble, **he** **discourages** others, **is not holding fast**, **is rejecting** God’s will, and, *at the finish line*, **may be sent to hell.**
  
3. **Store Up Heavenly Treasure:** **James 5:3** “Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in **the last days** that you have stored up your treasure! // Since we are on the **home stretch**, *this is NOT the time to*

store up earthly treasure. For those who do, *that treasure will testify against them – revealing the fact that they chose THIS WORLD over GOD’S KINGDOM!*

4. **Repentance for Forgiveness:** Jesus said to His disciples: “...it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that **repentance for forgiveness of sins** would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...” (Luke 24:45-47).
  - a. Jesus **suffered** (GF) – *completing His work*, then He **was raised** (ES) – *the victorious champion!*
  - b. Now, *on the home stretch*, let us tell who He is and what He did; then **let us call unbelievers to repent!**
  
5. **Don’t Shrink Back:** SUPER-STRONG WARNINGS:
  - a. **Hebrews 10:26-27** “...if we go on sinning willfully [*persistently doing what we know is wrong*] after receiving the knowledge of the truth [*about who Jesus is and what He has done for our salvation*], there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **but** a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE [ENEMIES OF GOD].
  - b. **Hebrews 10:28-31** [Do NOT be deceived:] Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy [*without hope for pardon*] *on the testimony of two or three witnesses*. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God [*by rejecting His GREAT sacrifice*], and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant [*that is, the blood of Jesus*] by which he was sanctified [*made holy in God’s sight*], and has insulted the Spirit of grace [*by*

rejecting His work of conversion]? For we know [God] who said, 'VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.' And again, 'THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.' **It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God...**" // **All who reject WILL experience terror! And many are unaware that they are running toward God's wrath!**

- c. **Hebrews 10:37-39** "...IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, [JESUS] WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE [each one who is repentant] SHALL LIVE BY FAITH [\*being sorry, \*confessing Christ, \*assembling together, and \*calling others to repent and believe]; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK [by going his own way], MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM [that is, such people do not meet God's approval]. **But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**"

### Conclusion:

- **Truth** – We are living during the home stretch of history!
- **Relevance** – Everyone will dwell somewhere in eternity!
- **Inspiration** – We all deserved hell, but, *through repentance*, the way to heaven is open!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear Jesus, as great evil is now overcoming the world and pulling many souls into hell, enable us to ♣keep confessing You in word and deed, ♣keep assembling together to receive God's gifts, ♣keep growing up in the Bible, and ♣keep calling others to repent – *before it is too late!*

**Website:** [www.blc7500.com](http://www.blc7500.com) (our short URL); **YouTube-watch:** Benefit from the Bible  
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