

# The Already and Not Yet of the Last Days

The OT prophets, writing from the vantage point of their present age, i.e. the time of promise, spoke of ‘the last days’ as being the time of fulfilment in the distant future, for example: <<The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his mind. In the latter days you will understand it clearly>> (Jeremiah 23:20), <<But in the latter days I will restore the fortunes of Elam, says the Lord>> (Jeremiah 49:39), <<In the latter days I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me, when through you, O Gog, I display my holiness before their eyes>> (Ezekiel 38:16b), <<Afterwards the Israelites shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; they shall come in awe to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days>> (Hosea 3:5), and: <<In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills>> (Micah 4:1a).

## The Structure of the OT Expectation of the Last Days



The NT (the time of fulfillment), however, locates “the last days” in the present age. The “last days” *already* began with the death and resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Spirit, but they are *not yet* fully realized, which will happen only after Christ returns.

## The NT Restructuring of the OT Expectation of the Last Days

