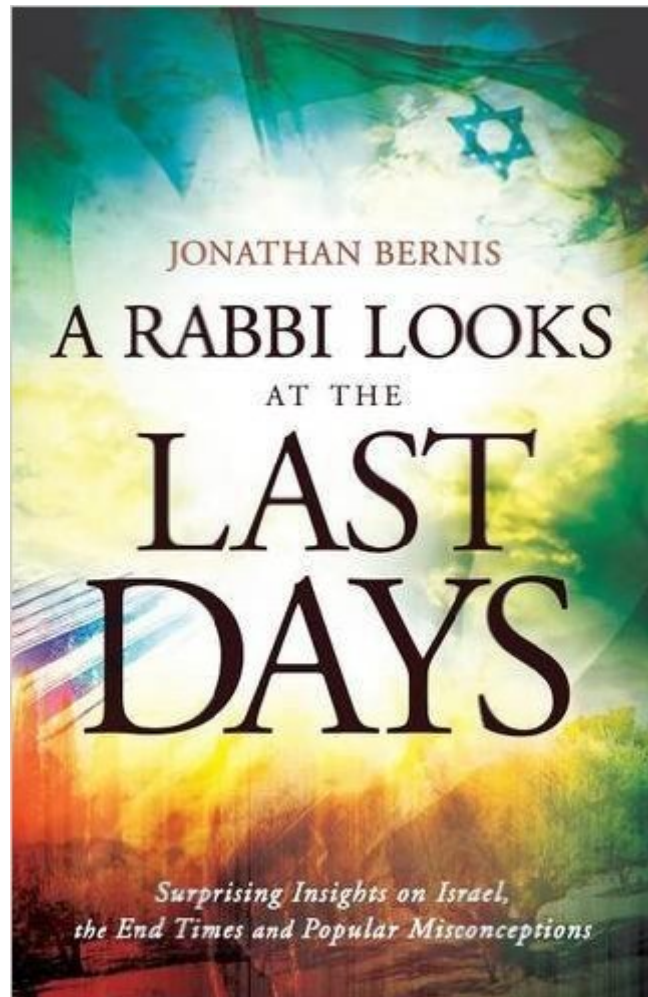


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A Rabbi Looks At The Last Days: Surprising Insights On Israel, The End Times And Popular Misconceptions



Synopsis

Respected messianic rabbi and television host Jonathan Bernis reveals surprising insights about popular misconceptions, Israel, the end times, and a clear sign Christians are ignoring.

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Chosen Books (January 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0800795431

ISBN-13: 978-0800795436

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (131 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #525,372 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #151 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Messianic Judaism](#) #880 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Eschatology](#) #1053 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Pentecostal & Charismatic](#)

Customer Reviews

What if everything you have been taught about the end-times was just a little ... off? That's what author and Messianic Rabbi Jonathan Bernis expresses in his new book *A Rabbi Looks at the Last Days: Surprising Insights on Israel, the End Times and Popular Misconceptions*. It's hard to say in a few words how much Bernis has covered in this fascinating look at prophecy from a Jewish perspective. So much is covered and so much of it blew my mind that I found myself reaching for my bible to double check the good Rabbi. Why? Because many of the things he mentioned aren't what is regularly preached about end times and they were such new concepts to me that I had to sit back, read and pray about them. In the end, I feel as if I have had my eyes opened to what is really going on in the world and I am excited! I have always believed that Christians need to embrace their Jewish roots in order to understand Scripture better. Bernis makes a very good point for understanding Jewish culture and especially Hebrew words and their meanings. Without this knowledge, we Gentiles tend to misinterpret scripture in a big way. For example, Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." If we are honest, most Christians believe that

making disciples of all nations means we are to go out into the world and share the gospel with those who have not heard it. But, we have misinterpreted a very important word in this verse and that is - nations. According to Bernis, the Gospel is first for the Jew and then for the Gentile. Always has been, always should be.

I have read many books on biblical eschatology; but this is the first one to offer a Jewish approach to these End Times that we are living in today. In the first half of the book the author examines six criteria which lead him to believe that we are truly living in the Last Days. The first criterion is that Jews are under increasing attacks throughout the world. The rise of antisemitism and the isolation of Israel from the other nations in the world are just two examples. The second criterion is the fact that many of the formerly scattered Jewish people are returning to Israel in these Last Days. He cites some truly miraculous examples of these events currently happening. The third criterion is the fact that more Jews are turning to Jesus Christ as their Messiah today than ever before in history. Again he cites some remarkable examples of this happening across the world. His fourth criterion is a rise in the expectancy of the Messiah soon appearing among the orthodox Jews currently living in Israel. The fifth criterion that he cites is that the times of the gentiles are being fulfilled as evidenced by the last sixty years in the recent history of Israel. And finally, the sixth criterion is the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14 which states that the gospel will be preached to all nations just before the return of Jesus Christ. Jonathan Bernis is a Messianic Jew who became a believer in Jesus Christ over thirty years ago. He heads an organization called Jewish Voice Ministries International which can be seen on television every week. In the second half of the book Bernis explains to the reader how God has used Israel as the key to all of bible prophecy. Genesis 12:3 says that God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who oppose the nation of Israel.

"A Rabbi Looks at the Last Days" was not what I was expecting. Perhaps I've read one too many 'End Times' books and somewhere along the way formed a preconceived idea that any book pertaining to the Last Days would by nature attempt an argument for a pre-Trib, or mid-Trib, or post-Trib, return of Jesus. Furthermore, I expected that it would attempt to analyze current events and political trends to make predictions and hypotheses, and that it would use words like "new world order", "mark of the beast", and "antichrist" liberally. Author Jonathan Bernis doesn't do any of those things. So let's be clear right at the start- if that is what you're looking for- this book won't interest you. If, however, you are honestly seeking perspective and wisdom, then you will be intrigued by Bernis's argument that Christ's return hinges on widespread acceptance of the true Gospel by the

Jewish people, and that this must become the focus of the Church today. But before he gets to that, Bernis spends a good deal of time trying to correct what he sees as common misperceptions pertaining to the Jewish people. He argues, for instance, that the Jews have not rejected the Gospel; rather, they have not heard the true Gospel. Indeed, throughout history the Jews have been blamed for killing Jesus and have been reviled and persecuted as a result- most often at the hands of so-called Christians. Bernis goes into a historical review of anti-Semitism, linking it back to Satan's desire to crush the people of God and the promised Savior that would come through them. Bernis also spends quite a lot of time reiterating that God is not finished with the Jewish people, nor has He replaced them as His chosen people. The redundancy on these points gets a little tedious and dry I'm afraid.

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