

# “A Reflection Upon God’s Last Day”

## II Peter 3:8

([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=11+peter+3:8](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=11+peter+3:8))

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David Letterman is the famous “10’s” list maker. Today we follow his example as we reflect upon one of God’s days on planet Earth. I invite you to remember that God, the author of the theory of relativity, remind us through Holy Scripture that one of God’s days is 1000 years of ours. God exists in a vastly different dimension of existence than we do! Our God is greater, more awesome, and more wonderful than anything we can image. What we can do is look back and see what has happened in God’s previous day on earth. Then, we can project what might be happening in God’s next day on earth. What are the top ten stories of God’s last day on earth?

The Christian Century Magazine ran a list of the top ten events from 1000 to 2000 A.D.

1. **The Great Schism.** The split of Christianity in 1054 into the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic branches. Ever since then, we have been a split family. We cannot even agree on a calendar.
2. **The Crusades,** which began in 1095 and ended in the late 1200’s represented the worst of abuses of the merging of the Christian faith with political power.
3. **The spread of Islam** around the Middle East, into India by the 1200’s and finally capturing Constantinople in 1453. Much of the spread of Islam came because of the Christian churches in fighting amongst themselves.
4. **The printing of the Gutenberg Bible.** In 1455, the mass distribution of the Bible became possible. With this possibility came the push for a Bible in everyone’s common language.
5. **Church sponsored flowering of art, architecture, music, and the intellectual life in the 14 and 1500’s.** The founding of Paris, Oxford, and Cambridge Universities, the painting of the Sistine Chapel, and the building of the great Cathedrals are but a small part of this creative period.
6. **In 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses** upon a church door in Wittenburg charging the Roman Catholic church with corruption and false doctrine. This one act led to the Protestant Reformation with all the continuing splits in the Church.
7. **The modern missions movement** began in the 1500’s with Roman Catholic priest traveling with their home church armies as they explored the New World. By the 18 and 1900’s the Protestants became a second wave of mission activity. The best of this process brought Christ into the lives of the people whose culture was untouched. The worst of this mission movement brought disease, death, and destruction to the national identity and culture.
8. **The establishment of religious liberty** as an option happened in America in the mid-1700’s. Prior to the advent of this idea governments viewed as their right the importance of maintaining good doctrine amongst all their people.
9. **Scientific challenge to faith** became commonplace in the mid-1900’s. Darwin, Freud, and Marx to name but a few people challenged the church to think more clearly what it means to be faithful in a modern world.
10. **The Holocausts and World Wars of the Twentieth Century** mark our time as the bloodiest in the history of the human family. Unfortunately the Christian church contributed to the Jewish Holocaust through centuries of systematic anti-Semitic teaching and preaching.

That is the Christian Century's list of the top ten stories. I have my own list except it can only be included in one of God's final minutes. I am gifted to be able to remember back a few years to the founding of Chilson Hills. Let's see what that top ten list will include.

1. **The founding of Chilson Hills Church** in 1974 by a group of faithful people who first began meeting for a Bible study in the living room of Rick and Judy Kontz. The vision that God implanted in their hearts to grow a warm and welcoming community alive with Christ's presence continues to be a vital part of our life almost 25 years later.
2. **The first Sunday Worship and Sunday School** in 1975 in the Boy Scout Building by the Millpond in downtown Brighton.
3. **The gift of ten acres of land "out in the country"** by Gordon and Ruth Schroeder. Along with this gift came an offer from the Cherry Hill Baptist Church of Dearborn to give their Henry Ford Chapel to Chilson Hills if the church would pay to move it. After much discussion the church decided to build a new building on their land.
4. **The first (of many more to come) youth mission trips in 1980.** The first one was to Haiti and included the surprise of a hurricane along with it. Since then, many youth and adults have participated in reaching out to others and learning from them. Our youth program continues to be one of the vital aspects of our church.
5. **In 1976, 1981, 1996, and 1999 Chilson Hills participated in major building projects.** That first building gave Chilson a home. The second expanded the facility with more classroom and office space. The third expanded the nursery and added much needed bathroom facilities. The fourth project is our multi-purpose Worship Center.
6. **In the mid-1980's we began a multiple Worship service format.** At first we had three services on Sunday morning. (Including the Golf Course Worship) Later we moved to our newly constructed Memorial Garden for an early Sunday morning service and began a Saturday night Coffee House Worship.
7. **After 1985, Chilson Hills began to change from a "little country church in the pines" to a medium sized church surrounded by upper middle class homes.**
8. **In 1982 the Diaconate program was begun** with a vision in mind of a fully mature, growing, and educated lay ministry staff. This leadership development program continues to evolve and is now at the core of the all ministry that happens at Chilson.
9. **In the mid-1990's the Diaconate and others began to recognize that we could no longer "do church" in the traditional way.** We decided to undertake a full evaluation of everything in the church and let God lead us into change. God lead us to establish a relationship with the Bethany Baptist Church of Detroit. God lead us to establish Lifegroups and Ministry Teams as the basis for all ministry at Chilson Hills. God lead us into building a community ministry center.
10. **God continues to bless us with a growing music program** through capable and competent leaders and talented vocal and instrumental people. Music is and will continue to be one of the most important parts of Worship at Chilson Hills.

That's my list of top ten in God's final minutes for Chilson Hills. I am sure each of us can also come up with a "Top 10" list for what God has done in our families or within our individual lives.

Now it is time to look forward and project what we think might be happening in the new day that began in 2001. Obviously we are in the very first minutes of God's new day, but already we can anticipate some things that are going to happen. For example, Nancy Runyon sent me an email detailing 24 items that are going to become extinct in America in the next few years. Some of these are very disturbing. Some are predictable. The top ten in this extinction category are:

1. **The Family farm** is going away. The downward trend is from 5.3 million farms in 1950 to 2.1 million family farms in 2003. And, unfortunately, the numbers continue to drop.
2. **Analog Television** is will be gone next year.
3. **News Magazines and Television News** are rapidly disappearing.
4. **Honey Bees** are also disappearing with grave consequences to us all.
5. **Mumps and Measles** are actually disappearing from the United States.
6. **Drive In Theaters** are almost gone now.
7. **Personal Checks** are on their way out.
8. **Wild Horses** will not make it much past 2025.
9. **Hand written letters** are almost gone now.
10. **The Milkman** still delivers milk in glass quart jars, but not in very many places anymore.

Now what are ten blessings you are going to pray for in the next few minutes of God's new day? In the spoken sermon, we are going to create our list. As you read this sermon if you want to contribute, then email me at [dswink@hotmail.com](mailto:dswink@hotmail.com) or place your thoughts on the Chilson website, [www.chilsonhills.org](http://www.chilsonhills.org).

God's new day is advancing and God invites us to be a part in helping transform the world into a much better place. What are you willing to do for Christ in the coming year?