

II Peter 3

2Pe 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: **2** That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: **3** Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, **4** And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

- Every generation has its own mockers and this generation is no different. The “fathers” referred to here evidently were the first generation of Christians, many of whom were by this time dead. They passed without witnessing the Lord’s return. But things were not as they were since the beginning of the creation. These false teachers believed that the world always existed and would always exist. Those who expected the Lord’s return, in their view, were disappointed and Peter’s audience should be also. Where they were mistaken was in the fact that those dead saints were (**and are**) awaiting His return but only from their graves.

2Pe 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **6** Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

- They deliberately forgot that it was common knowledge that the worlds were created by God speaking them into existence. (*Ignorance is a choice!*) The earth was formed by the separation of the waters but at the time of Noah that separation was no longer maintained.

Gen 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Thus the earth perished, the existing order was changed and the evils of the age were removed.

2Pe 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

- As the world that then was, suffered destruction in the flood (*by the Word of God*) so the present heavens and earth (*by the same Word*) have been kept for the destruction of the ungodly, this time by fire. This is not to say that the ungodly will cease to exist any more than the earth ceased to exist after the flood. Their destruction here is of the body and soul in Hell. The teaching of the Doctrine of Annihilation is false in that it teaches that the wicked will be annihilated in the end and that there is no eternal punishment for the disobedient. Such teachings encourage defiance to the will of God.

Mat 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- They had deliberately ignored the lesson of the flood which demonstrated that all things did not continue as they were from the beginning. The lapse of time between the promise and the realization is not to be interpreted as meaning God will not fulfill His commitments and discharge His judgments. God does not live by a calendar year thus His the day as a thousand years is not literal. The passing of time will not affect the promises and threatening of God.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- Man may forget or refuse to keep his promises or conditions may arise making it impossible to keep them but since none of these are characteristic of God it would be ridiculous to suggest that any delay by God means that He has forgotten. His patience is mind boggling.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. **11** *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, **12** Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

- The “day of the Lord”-

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice,

Joh 5:29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

This phrase in the Old Testament usually denoted the idea of judgment. In the New Testament it designates the Lord’s coming which will precede the judgment. The day will come as a thief because it will come unexpectedly and with suddenness.

Mat 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Mat 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The universe and that which is immediately above us will pass and there will be the noise of dissolving worlds and the tremendous roar of flames as they consume the earth. The elements are the minute parts which comprise the whole. The heavens and the earth are to be dissolved, all of which sprang into existence by the word of God. Along with that will be the cities, monuments and all else that was built by man.

“Of what manner of persons” translated from the Greek literally means “of what country”, thus a reminder that Christians are citizens of the colony of Heaven.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Php 3:20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

In view of the transitory nature of the world and all that belongs to it, children of God should cease their concern about it and fix their attention on those things that are eternal.

2Co 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The faithful are to look forward to and earnestly desire the coming of the day of God. It will signal the end of earthly trials and usher in that blissful state for which we sigh.

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we (*those who have obeyed the gospel*), according to his promise, look for (*expect*) new (*Gk.2537-fresh*) heavens (*Gk.3772-the sky; by extension heaven [as the abode of God]*) and a new earth (*Gk.1093-country*), wherein dwelleth righteousness. (*As a new system of government the earth that will then be is not this one thus there is no support whatsoever in this passage for the pre-millennial theory of Christ reigning on earth for a thousand years when He comes. The English translations should have referred to the original Greek language so as not to avoid the mistranslation and ensuing doctrines that followed.*)

2Pe 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

- The things that these brethren were to look for, as are we, were the second coming of Christ, the destruction of the worlds and the dawn of the eternal age. These events are certain to occur and all who wish to escape the destruction are to be found in Him whether dead or alive.

2Pe 3:15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

- God is willing through His long suffering to give every possible opportunity for all to come to repentance. (*But He will only hold out for so long.*) Paul wrote letters also on God’s patience and long suffering to brethren dwelling in some of the same provinces. By this we know that Peter was acquainted with the writings of Paul and that he accepted Paul’s writings as equally authoritative as his own. Many, if not all, letters were circulated among the churches for their knowledge until most were compiled (*canonized*) into what we call the Bible today.

Col 4:16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

1Th 5:27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

2Pe 3:16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

- It is probable that the letters of Paul were being circulated and exchanged at this time becoming well known to all the saints. Much of what Paul wrote Peter covered in his epistle.

The judgment- *Rom 14:10* But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

The resurrection- *1Co 15:12* Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Heaven, the future abode of the righteous- *2Co 4:18* While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The end of the world and the destruction of the wicked- *2Th 1:7* And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, *8* In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: *9* Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; *10* When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto Him, *2* That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. *3* Let no man deceive you by any means...

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: *12* That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Once again showing the fact that these things were inspired.

2Pe 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

2Pe 3:18 But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To Him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.

- “Grow” here is used in command form, “in grace”, being in the favor of God which increases as we grow as His children. In “knowledge” is to be better informed in the doctrine of Christ. “Forever”, literally, “to the day of eternity” (*εις ημεραν αιωνος*). It is proper to refer to eternity as a day because it is without a yesterday to precede it or a tomorrow to follow it.

Are you ready for that day to come?

*Charli Yana
May 15, 2011*

www.searchfortruth.church