

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church
Baptist Training Union

“1st and 2nd Peter and Jude”
Called To Prepare for the Lord’s Return

Study 11: Preparing For The Lord’s Return – 2 Peter 3:1-18

1. Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder),
2. That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of [a]us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,
3. Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to 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 creation.”
5. For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,
6. By which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.
7. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and [b]perdition of ungodly men.
8. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward [c]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
10. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be [d]burned up.
11. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
12. Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?
13. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
14. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;
15. and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
16. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.
17. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;
18. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Footnotes:

- (a) 2 Peter 3:2 NU, M *the apostles of your Lord and Savior or your apostles of the Lord and Savior*
(b) 2 Peter 3:7 *destruction* (c) 2 Peter 3:9 NU *you* (d) 2 Peter 3:10 NU *laid bare, lit. found*

Discussion

- A. Why did Peter say he wrote this letter? Why is his reason for doing so important? ver. 1-2
- B. What is a scoffer? What does Peter say motivates their behavior? How would you describe their motivations? v. 3.
- C. Scoffers promote skepticism as a justification or support of their actions. How can biblical skepticism affect a person's lifestyle? Is any skepticism ever justified? If so, when? ver. 4
- D. How does Peter refute the scoffer's claims in v. 4? What assumptions are Peter making in this rebuttal? How do you defend the bible's account of the flood? ver. 5-7.
- E. Scoffers claim Jesus should have returned by now if He was coming. v. 4. What is the mistake in this assumption and claim? v. 8-9. What does this imply about the Lord's return?
- F. How do you envision "the Day of the Lord"? Do you believe many or few others share your vision? How important is it to you that others see or share your vision of the Day of the Lord? ver. 10, 12.
- G. What should the Day of the Lord prompt us to do? To what extent is salvation depended upon acting upon this prompting? ver. 11.
- H. How do you envision "new heavens and a new earth" after the destruction of the former? In what way do you envision it different from the present and former heavens and earth? ver. 13.
- I. In light of what we expect, Peter says to found "by Him in peace". What does this mean? How can we and must we then "be diligent" and "be blameless and without spot"? ver. 14.
- J. What does Peter say the longsuffering or patience of the Lord is? Who does he say agrees with him? What else does he say about him and his letters? ver. 15-16
- K. What does Peter give as the bases of his final warning? What does he warn of happening? How does he say we should grow? How would you characterize this type of growth? ver. 17-18.
- L. In conclusion, how do you see and anticipate the Lord's return? Do you see His return more or less likely in your lifetime? How will it influence your judgement, actions and witness going forward?