

II Peter 3

I want to thank our Radio audience for your prayers and give you the good news my lung cancer has shrunk by 2/3.

It is our plan for me to preach 3 or 4 weeks a month and introduce to you Manuel our associate minister and have him bring the sermon once a month.

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in [both] which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

I stir up your pure minds ... his object was mainly to exhort them to holy lives.

By way of remembrance ... By reminding you of the claims of Christ as shown by prophets and apostles.

3:2 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:

That ye may be mindful of the words ... Both of what was spoken by the prophets in the Old Testament, and of what the apostles have now spoken

3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

Knowing this first ... The apostles and prophets have reminded them that there will be scoffers in the last days which is the last dispensation

3:4 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.

Where is the promise of his coming? ... As the centuries pass away, this objection recurs repeatedly, with greater and greater intensity. The central thesis of Christianity is the Second Coming of Christ in the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment. Peter here foretold the ultimate mockery with which unbelievers and apostates would receive such doctrine, there being in all probability at the time he wrote outcroppings of the same thing ...

All things continue ... The scoffers assert that the regular order of nature has continued right on as it was from the beginning of creation. Spring, summer fall and winter ... seed time, sowing, planting and harvest have continued the same since the beginning. They forget the flood.

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:

For this they willingly are ignorant of ... Their ignorance which causes them to speak thus is willful. They obstinately forget all the lessons taught by the flood. Where the fixed order of nature was forever interrupted and changed.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [*was*] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water.

3:5 That by the word of God the earth standing out of the water and in the water ...

Genesis 1:9-10 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry [*land*] appear: and it was so. **10** And God called the dry [*land*] Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that [*it was*] good.

3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Whereby means by water the old world was overflowed and perished.

Genesis 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. **12** And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

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.

By the same word. The heavens and earth of old were formed by the word of God, but the same word, which has always been sure, declares that they are reserved for fire. See

Psalms 50:3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

Psalms 97:1-3 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad [*thereof*]. **2** Clouds and darkness [*are*] round about him: righteousness and judgment [*are*] the habitation of his throne. **3** A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.

Isaiah 66:15-16 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Isaiah 66:24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [*was*] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [*was like*] the fiery flame, [*and*] his wheels [*as*] burning fire.

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.

Against the day of judgment ... This destruction by fire will be when the Lord is revealed in judgment and when perdition comes on ungodly men.

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.

But, beloved, be not ignorant ... Delay was the objection of the scoffers, but time is no element in the counsels of God. He has eternity in which to work out his purposes. Time has no bearing on the promises or the threats of God cf:

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

God can just as easily take a thousand years as He can take one day. If He seems to us short lived creatures to delay it for wise purposes.

Psalm 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight [*are but*] as yesterday when it is past, and [*as*] a watch in the night.

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.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise ... If the day of the Lord seems delayed it is not due to slackness. It is rather because God is long suffering and is giving time to call the world to repentance. See

I Timothy 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

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.

3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night ... When people are not expecting it. Cf:

Matthew 24:42-44 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the good man 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. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

I Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape

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 ... “great noise”

is rho-ize-don the word in ancient Greek was used to describe the whizzing of an arrow, the whirring rush of wings , the sound the wind and the murmur of waters. This is what is called an ono-mato-poeic term in which the sound denotes the meaning. Here it describes the crash of dissolving worlds and the tremendous roar of flames as they dissolve the world.

The elements shall melt ... The material of which they are composed.

The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up ...

The earth and all man's creations. That the world shall come to an end seems to be written in its very constitution. A slight change in the constitution of the atmosphere, or the decomposition of its water would wrap us in flame.

Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then [*cometh*] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Corinthians 15:50-55 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [*must*] put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where [*is*] thy sting? O grave, where [*is*] thy victory?

I Thessalonians 3: 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

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.

... The elements shall melt with fervent heat ... By this is meant the basic building blocks of all material things, the very atoms themselves. "These words were written by Peter long before the atomic age, but they fit strikingly into the atomic vocabulary." Well into the period spanned by countless people now living, the scientific world was certain that such a thing as that mentioned by Peter here was impossible. Up until 1945 in school, science professors ridiculed the Bible as they do today saying "One cannot believe the New Testament, because it teaches that the earth will burn up." One famous professor even "proved" that it cannot burn (with a Bunsen burner, no less!), by applying it to a handful of soil!

Well, science has at last caught up with II Peter and the revelation of God. And if such a fact as this does not convince someone of the apostles' inspiration, such a person cannot be convinced.

Today, all nations tremble in fear of atomic fires that may devastate and make uninhabitable the whole earth. Besides that, the strides in the field of astronomy postulate a fate of our earth that almost invariably is described as fiery dissolution, whether from the explosion of our sun, or by the sun's becoming a "black hole" and drawing our earth into itself! No one knows, of course, how the end will be; but only a fool can believe that the end will not occur; and there is no reason at all to reject Peter's prophetic revelation that the end will be by fire, a fate which he prophesied nearly two thousand years ago.

The solar system and the great galaxies, even space-time relationships, will be abolished. All elements which make up the physical world will be dissolved by heat and utterly melt away.

It is a picture which in an astonishing degree corresponds to what might actually happen according to modern theories of our physical universe

3:11 [*Seeing*] then [*that*] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [*of persons*] ought ye to be in [*all*] holy conversation and godliness,

What manner of persons ought ye to be ... Since we have no abiding home on this earth and seek one beyond, we should live in a state of holiness and preparation to meet God.

3:12 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?

Looking for ... preparing for, and desiring the Lord's coming. Dreadful as that day will be for the impenitent it is a day of relief and of glorious attainment to the saint.

... and hasting unto the coming of the day of God ... speu-don-ias “hasting on” causing the day of God to come more quickly by helping to accomplish which must occur before it dawns.

3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise ... what promise?

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

There are 2 different Greek words for new: one means new verses old and the other is fresh verses worn out ... the word used here is fresh. The heavens and the earth are not to be blotted out, but changed, purified, and made better for the home of the righteous.

Revelation 21:1-6 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [*is*] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [*and be*]

their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely

21:16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

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.

Wherefore, beloved ... Now follows an plea to holiness in view of the coming of the Lord.

Colossians 3:1-5 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, [*who is*] our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

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;

And account [*that*] the longsuffering of our Lord [*is*] salvation ... That God's long suffering is designed to promote salvation.

... even as our beloved brother Paul . . . hath written to you. We cannot tell what epistles of Paul are alluded to. The acceptance by the apostle Peter, in this passage, of Paul's letters as "Scripture" is most important; but it was nothing new. Paul himself quoted from Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

I Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [*is*] worthy of his reward.

This is a passage that Paul calls "Scripture," despite its being found nowhere else but Luke in the Bible. The apostles accepted other New Testament writers as inspired and their writings as scripture.

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.

... As also in all his epistles ... Peter knew of many epistles, then, that Paul had written, and knew also that they contained some very profound argument, which a Jew especially found it difficult to understand.

... The unlearned and unstable ... The ignorant and vacillating wrest, Pervert and give meanings that were never meant.

... as [*they do*] also the other scriptures ...The other scriptures may mean the Old Testament, or New Testament writings already written. The point to be noted is that already when Peter wrote Paul's epistles were accepted as a part of the Scriptures.

... unto their own destruction ... This should be a warning to all in our day who twist the Scriptures from their real meaning.

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 sted-fastness.

... seeing ye know [*these things*] before, beware ... That there shall be false teachers; hence beware of them.

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 in grace ... How they may grow was shown in

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Peoples New Testament commentary by B. W. Johnson, Coffman's Commentaries, Clarkes Commentary