

II Peter 3

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:

Beloved ... This word is somewhat of a keynote word in this chapter, It contrasts the true Church with the vehement pronouncements against the false teachers and mockers.

I stir up your pure minds ... Peter's object was mainly to exhort them to live holy lives.

By way of remembrance ... he had in mind their remembrance of the whole corpus of Christian truth as revealed not only by the holy apostles but by the prophets of the old Testament as well.

II Peter 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 Savior:

That ye may be mindful of the words ... All truth revealed by the prophets and the apostles. Peter mentioned the second coming in this chapter; but that is by no means all of it. The doctrine of the end of the world, the salient features of the great apostasy, the forthcoming judgment of all mankind, the new heavens and the new earth, the inspiration of both the Old and the New Testaments, to name only a few things, and many, many other cardinal tenets of the Christian religion are mentioned in both I & II Peter.

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

Knowing this first ... in the last days ...” There is a difference in this expression from "latter times" I Timothy 4:1 "the last days" II Timothy 3:1 Perhaps it means the last part of the days of the world's duration. There is also a marked difference in the attitude of those mentioned

in II Peter 2 and here. There, the approach is one of stealth and deception; here the opposition is bold and challenging.

II Peter 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, the resurrection of the dead and the final judgment.

Peter here foretold the ultimate mockery which unbelievers and apostates would spew their false doctrine, in all probability at the time Peter wrote about 64 AD 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 do not say that things continue as they were from the coming of Christ, but from the beginning of the creation

They forget the flood.

II Peter 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 is willful. Far from being any intelligent and well-reasoned objections, the mockery of the scoffers in these last times is merely a loud and arrogant denial, based upon their unbelief in the supernatural, and because they resented any interference in their "walking after their own lusts."

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.

“... That by the word of God the earth standing out of the water and in the water ... Dry land was one place one continent.

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.

II Peter 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.

Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: **22** All in whose nostrils [*was*] the breath of life, of all that [*was*] in the dry [*land*], died.

Genesis 10:25 And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one [*was*] Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name [*was*] Joktan.

Dry land was one place, the earth was an island, what scientist call Pangea. The name Peleg means earthquake in Hebrew and divided

means split in Hebrew. Joktan means make small in Hebrew. So in the days of Peleg the earth was divided or split and the continents began to drift apart and be made into small continents.

II Peter 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.

They have conveniently forgotten that God did intervene in judgment at the time of the Flood. God's intervention and interruption of the orderly process of nature in the cataclysmic event of the great flood proved several things, willfully put out of their minds by the scoffers: (1) It cannot be argued that God will not again interrupt the steady rhythm of the earth. He did it once and certainly can do it again. (2) The excessive wickedness of men caused the first interruption, and it is logical to believe our excessive wickedness soon will be ended by another interruption. (3) It is quite easy for God to do such a thing. It was the mere word of God that created all things. Only a word brought the flood. Only another word will bring another judgment for as the prophet says "by the rod of His mouth and the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked" Isaiah 11:4 (4) The flood came upon the promise of God to Noah that it would be done. God kept that promise. (5) God has now promised that the world is stored up for fire; and God will keep that promise also.

Paul mentioned that Jesus would come from heaven "with flaming fire" to render judgment cf: II Thessalonians 1:7-8. Jesus mentioned in the general judgment scene of Matthew 25 that the wicked should be turned aside into "everlasting fire" Matthew 25:41. Isaiah gave the word of the Lord saying, "Lo, I create new heavens and a new earth;

and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind" Isaiah 65:17; and "Behold the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger and fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire" Isaiah 66:25; also, "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, ..." Isaiah 34:4. Daniel connected fire with the final judgment thus: "A fiery stream issued and came forth from him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:10). These passages are enough to show that Peter fully harmonizes with other words of inspiration both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, which mention the world being stored up for fire. Neither the scoffers of Peter's own times, nor those of our own are willing to believe this; but it is nevertheless true, for the Lord has spoken it.

Next week we will pull it all together and see: The New Testament teaches that the general resurrection of all the dead, the Second Coming of Christ, and the general judgment of all mankind will occur simultaneously with the destruction of the earth.

II Peter 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.

II Thessalonians 1:7-8 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

II Peter 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.

This verse is just as valid today as the day that Jesus said it.

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.

II Peter 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.

But is longsuffering ... Long ago, Augustine said, "God is patient because he is eternal." "He who is from everlasting to everlasting can afford to wait." There is another reason for God's delay.

Not willing that any should perish ... The time of the end is deferred, that the number of them that are to be saved may be filled up.

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

II Peter 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.

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

II Peter 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 rushing of waters. This is what is called an ono-mato-poeic term in which the sound denotes the meaning.

Here it describes the fires, the clash and crash of dissolving worlds with the tremendous roar of flames as they dissolve the world.

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

II Peter 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 should tremble but are oblivious to the atomic fires that may destroy 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 expansion or explosion of our sun, or by the sun's becoming a black hole.

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 painted 2,000 years ago which in an astonishing degree corresponds to what might actually happen at any moment.

II Peter 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.

People who will not believe in the second coming of Christ and the accompanying judgment of all the world inevitably have a tendency to live careless and sinful lives. There is a positive and definite connection between what one believes and what one does.

II Peter 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 saints of the Churches of Christ.

... 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.

Won't you help us preach this Gospel to all the World?

Everyone must be told and only here can you as an individual or a congregation pay for a World Wide Broadcast for \$ 300 a month.

II Peter 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

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 by fire 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 [*/s*] 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

Revelation 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.

II Peter 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 a plea for holiness ...

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:

II Peter 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'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.

II Peter 3:16 As also in all [*his*] letters, 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 letters 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 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 a passage clearly meant to be received as "Scripture," despite its being nowhere else in the Bible. The apostles accepted other New Testament writers as inspired.

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

II Peter 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.

II Peter 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