

## 2 Peter 3:1-9

### Jesus is Coming Back Part 1

**Intro: Have you ever wondered why the right-hand door mirror on your car says "Objects are closer than they appear"?**

A) The reason is that the mirror is convex, meaning it allows for a much wider angle of vision.

B) As believers we are called to live w/ **a much wider angle of Vision**

C) We are called to look at our world from a heavenly perspective and an eternal perspective

D) We are to see the events around us in light of Scripture – especially in light of what the Bible says about the return of Jesus!

**Jesus Christ is coming back again!!!**

A) That is and has been the great hope of the church for the last 2,000 years.

B) The 2nd coming of Jesus is the theme of 2 Peter chapter 3 – lets read text  
Beloved,

C) there is a sentiment of endearment – Beloved 4 times in this chapter

D) These are people that he loves dearly – people the Lord loves dearly  
And because the Lord loves us dearly he doesn't want us to be in the dark or caught off guard about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus

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 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 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 us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**Notice Peter's Aim here is to stir up these precious saints Idea of stirred up – to AWAKE FULLY**

A) "I want "stimulate your thinking,"

B) I think there is always the danger of when you know something and hear something so often – grow in different. - **Amy and her hair**

C) That can happen to us – Jesus is coming again – oh yea – I've heard that but it has been so long -

1) grow indifferent – complacent – lethargic

D) Peter says: I am writing to stir up your pure minds by way of reminder

E) Paul did the same thing: Romans 13:11 writing in light of the Lord's Coming **And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

**In the same way Peter wanted to Stir up the believers concerning the COMING OF THE LORD**

A) We Know From Rev. 3 That the Lord wants us Hot – not Luke Warm - Burning Bright for Him !!!!

B) Now there is **a specific reason** why Peter is wanting to stir them up concerning the coming of Jesus

**V.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?"

A) Now, a scoffer is someone who treats lightly what should be taken seriously.

B) If you've ever tried to share your faith at all, you have encountered scoffers.

**C)They Scoff – say things like "You're not a fundamentalist, are you?"**

1)You don't believe in the Bible literally do you?

**D)You're not a closed-minded, non-thinking idiot, are you?"**

**In the last days scoffers will come:**

**A)The last days is a term that speaks of a wide range of timeframe**

**B)The Last days begins with the Birth of Jesus –**

1)See from the fall in the Garden of Eden – everything was moving towards the coming of Messiah

**C)The one who would fix the curse brought on by the sin of Man**

**The Last days start with the coming of Messiah – and encompass that time frame between his first and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.**

**A)The Bible speaks of 3 Comings of Jesus –**

**B)1<sup>st</sup> coming to the earth– Baby born in Bethlehem – born to die – he came as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**

**C)2<sup>nd</sup> Coming will also be to planet earth – This time he will come as the lion of the tribe of Judah the conquering one**

**We can't wait for that event to happen.**

**A)At his first coming He came once to deal with sin.**

**B)At his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming - He's going to come and move out all the politicians, he'll say, "Let me show you how it's really done."**

**C)And he's going to fix all injustices that have plagued this world for thousands of years.**

**But In-between the 1<sup>st</sup> coming and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is an event that is known as the rapture of the church –**

**A)Jesus comes NOT to planet earth – but to the clouds**

**B)The Church – His bride his followers are caught up to meet him – miraculously taken to heaven**

**C)There are those today – who Scoff at that idea of the rapture – deal with next week**

1)What is it – what does the Bible say about it

**But what Peter is dealing with here are those who would scoff at the idea of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ**

**A)The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is a major theme of Scripture**

**B)A full one-fifth of the entire Bible deals with either the end of days and/or the second coming of Christ**

1) 1,845 times the bible mentions the 2nd coming of Messiah

**C)17 out of 38 books in O.T. are given to this subject almost entirely**

**D)318 times in N.T. - one in every 30 verses speaks of the 2nd Coming and the end of the age**

1)7 out of every 10 chapters in N.T. deal with this issue

**For every ONE verse that speaks about Christ's first coming, there are 8 that speak about his second.**

**A)For every ONE verse that speaks about his atonement, there are 2 verses that speak about his second coming.**

**B)Twenty-one times Jesus personally referred to it, 1)and fifty times we are told to be ready for it.**

**C)The Lord inspired that so much would be written about this because**

**1)He wants it to be on the Forefront of our MINDS**

**Played baseball in Highschool – Pitcher – every day we did 2 drills**

**A)Ground ball hit to the right side – first & second – cover first base -AND – past ball – cover home**

**B)Used to think – Why are we doing this so much?**

1)There was a Purpose for the Repetition -

**C)Our coach wanted this to be 2<sup>nd</sup> nature to us — MUSCLE MEMORY natural response**

1)in the heat of the moment we would respond .....

**D)Our heavenly coach – wants our 2<sup>nd</sup> nature to be that Jesus is coming back**

1) Things happen – our first reaction would not be to panic – fear –

E) We Know: This is what the Bible said would be happening in what we might call the last of the last days -

1) The world is not falling apart it is falling into Place

Somebody tried to imagine how the popular press would tell the story of the end of the world.

A) This one source said the Wall Street Journal might have as the headlines: "Dow Jones Plummets As the World Ends."

B) Whereas USA Today, being a little simpler in their headlines, would simply write, "WE'RE DEAD."

1) People magazine would have this article: "What Will your favorite movie stars Wear on Their Last Night."

C) Ladies' Home Journal "Lose 10 Pounds by Judgment Day with Our New 'Armageddon' Diet!"

D) Golf Digest would have the article, "Make Your Last Round the Best."

E) And, finally, Christian Weekly would say, "We Told You So."

1) WE KNOW – NO SURPRISE

So Peter is writing to stir up their minds by way of reminder – Know this Jesus is coming again

A) In the remainder of our time today – I want us to see 2 things

B) The Argument of the Scoffers / The Rebuttal of the saints

C) The Argument of the Scoffers-

1) And 3 main arguments that they use.

First is the argument from ridicule. They are mockers and they are mocking. "Where is the promise of His coming?"

A) This is the emotional attack. It plays on feelings.

B) Some of the Christians, at that time expected that Jesus would have come by now.

1) They were living in the midst of intense persecution

C) And because He hadn't come they were wondering if somehow He wasn't going to keep His word.

D) The Mockers played upon that emotion and doubt Where is this Jesus whom you have been waiting for?

Secondly, the argument from morality.

V.3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

They want and eschatology that fits their immorality

A) See people who are living in immorality don't want Jesus to come back –

Aa) they don't want to be held accountable for their lives - They don't want there to be a judgment

B) They don't want to ever have to answer to God for the life they live.

C) Those who believe that there is no judgment endorse sayings like - Eat drink and be merry –

1) Don't worry be happy – Party hearty  
Party like there is no tomorrow.

D) They want to live a immoral, lust-controlled life, they don't want any accountability,

1) If Jesus isn't coming back to one to answer to

The emotional argument; the moral argument.

A) Their third argument is the argument from uniformity.

B) In verse 4 at the end, they make this ridiculous statement. "For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

C) They say God never has intervened in judgment, so why would we believe He will in the future.

It is a belief system known as Uniformity

A) which has been the prevalent philosophy in our Western culture for the last hundred years

**B) Think uniform – there is an order things are moving along without any big disruptions**

**1) without punctuated cataclysm;**

**C) This is the way things have always been and this is how they will always will be..**

**D) Mockery: Those dooms day prophets don't know what they are talking about**

**E) The arguments of the Scoffers –**

- Emotional argument -ridicule
- Argument for Immorality –
- Argument for Uniformity

**Then we have the Rebuttal for the saints –  
#1 Remember The scriptures**

**A) OT Prophets** 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,**

**B) Recall – 2 Peter 1:20 -<sup>20</sup> knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.**

**C) Those OT writers who were moved by the HS had a lot to say about the Judgment of God**

**1) And the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus**

**D) A few examples**

**Psalm 50 verses 1-4** “The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks; he summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. 2 From Zion, the perfection of beauty, God appears in radiance.,

**3 Our God is coming; he will not be silent!**

Devouring fire precedes him, and a storm rages around him.

4 On high, he summons heaven and earth in order to judge his people:

**Isaiah 13:10-13**

Indeed, the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shine.

11 I will punish the world for its evil, and wicked people for their iniquities.

I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants.

12 I will make a human more scarce than fine gold, and mankind more rare than the gold of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will shake from its foundations at the wrath of the Lord of Armies, on the day of his burning anger, Isaiah 13:10-13

**The minor prophets,** “The mountains will melt under Him, the valleys will be split like wax before the fire, like water poured down a steep place.” Micah 1:4

For look, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and everyone who commits wickedness will become stubble. The coming day will consume them,” says the LORD of Armies, “not leaving them root or branches. **Malachi 4:1-2**

**But it is not just what the OT prophets wrote – it is also what the apostles said: V.2 ... and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,**

**A) There are 260 chapters in the NT, and in those 260 chapters there are 300 references to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.**

**B) There are 27 books in the NT; 23 of the 27 refer to the Lord's return explicitly**

**C) Jesus Olivet discourse Matthew 24, 25– Given to his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – “**what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age**” – Whole sermon**

**D) The NT is filled with warnings about judgment, 1) and information about the Lord coming to gather His church.**

**#1 Remember the scriptures**

**#2 Remember History: 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 perdition of ungodly men.

**A) Peter says: You've got this all wrong. – Forgetting history**

**B) Peter points to two cataclysmic events that happened –**

1) 1<sup>st</sup> Creation – God spoke and there was

**C) Created the water – then spoken again and Land was rose out of Water**

**D) God spoke the world into existence and the world is sustained by his word as well.**

**And then Peter pointed to the great Flood in which God destroyed the world he made – mans wickedness**

**A) Interest the word "flooded" V.6 in Greek: katakluzó.**

**B) What does that sound like? Cataclysm.**

1) That's exactly what it was a cataclysmic event that changed the course of mankind's history

**C) Notice that Peter says – they willingly forget this**

1) Willingly ignore -

**Still happens today: Men willingly ignore the Flood – they mock the idea of the flood**

**A) But all you have to do is pay attention to the fossil record**

**B) Fossils of whales in Michigan, Fresh water**

**C) fossilized sharks found in Ohio- how explain that**

**D) fossilized fish found in Wyoming---at 7,000 feet above sea level.**

1) How'd they swim up there?

**E) Then there's the great slab of sediment near Agate Springs, Nebraska,**

1) Where bones of some 9,000 different animals that have been tossed and crushed violently and buried by water and dirt.

**Remember Scripture, Remember of History**

**#3 Remember the Lord's time frame**

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.

**A) The Lord's time frame is different from ours –**

**B) There was a little boy who heard this verse and he got an idea: he said, "Lord, in your Word it says that a thousand years is like a day to you.**

**C) And it also says that you own cattle on a thousand hills,**

1) which means, like, a million billion dollars is like one dollar to you."

**D) And then he prayed, "Lord, could I just have one dime?..... "Sure, just give me a minute."**

**True God's time frame is different from ours**

**A) Don't interpret God's delays as his denials –**

**B) The Lord is faithful – The Lord is never late – he is always on time**

**C) Interesting passage in Hosea 6:1**

Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.

**This is an interesting Prophecy to consider in light of what Peter says here a day is as a 1,000 yrs / 1,000 yrs as a day**

**A) Because 2,000 yrs ago – Israel was destroyed – A.D. 70 Titus the Roman general – came in & Destroyed Jerusalem / Jews dispersed**

**B) For almost 2,000 yrs they were w/out a Home land – but 2,000 yrs / after 2 days miracle happened**

**C) Something that had never taken place in the history of the world/**

1) a nation that had ceased to exist was REBORN

**C) Israel would be reborn as a nation / regathered to their home land & it happened May 14, 1948 –**

**1) after 2 days He will revive us – and He did**

**D) But then Hosea said - And on the third day He will raise us up that we may live in His sight**

**The third day is a reference to the Millennium –**

**A) When Jesus returns – the Jews are going to receive him – He drives out the enemy**

B)Sets up His Kingdom – Psalm 102 declares he will build up Zion – reference to Jerusalem

C)Interesting because Jesus declared in Luke 21:24 Jesus declared *And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

**So the Nation was restored in 1948 – but Jerusalem still belonged to the enemies – gentiles**

A)But in 1967 – there was 6 day war where Israel miraculously gained control of Jerusalem

B)Today Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel

C)So we could say that in 1967 – the time of the Gentiles was fulfilled –

1)The Rapture could have happened in 1967

**Which means the time frame we are living in right now – we could call OVERTIME!**

A)Guys there is nothing left that needs to take place before Jesus comes for his church.

B)Why are we in Overtime? #4 Remember God's Character V.9

**9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

A)There is a purpose to God's delay- it is not that God is being indifference, not impotence,

B)It is not that he is distracted

C)It is calculated patience – HE Doesn't want anyone to perish!

**We cry Come on Lord – it has been over 2,000 yrs how much longer ?**

A)God says – Chill!!! It has been a little over 2 days

B)Be patient more to be done – more to be saved.

C)Glad for God's patience 1982, 1990, 1996, 2000, 2010

**His heart is to save !!! His Method of Salvation is to use us**

A)We are His mouth pieces / His Ambassadors /

B)We are His Mail men – Deliver a message that can change lives

C)A message that can change the course of eternity for an individual

**Salt and light – Speaking the truth in Love**

A)He is waiting for more people to say yes to Jesus

B)Maybe there is one last person – YOU TODAY