

2 Peter 3:10-16 The Day of the Lord

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 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.

Who here has ever owned a brand new car?

A)When I graduated from High School in 1982 – as a grad gift my parents bought me a brand new car – Subaru hatchback

B)Now in those days you could buy a brand new car for around \$4k.

C)I remember being so careful – parking lot – park further away – no one park next to me.

1)Treated that car extra special – wash – wax –

D)But then one day it happened — someone careless - Someone backed into it – the church parking lot

Oh No! - Then to be “helpful” – Don’t get so upset Rob – it is all going to burn anyway!

A)True – but in the moment – NOT HELPFUL –

B)It is all going to burn is a Biblical truth – 2 Peter 3 is one of the passages that talks about that

1)The earthy as we know it is not going to exist forever

Peter says this is going to happen on The day of the Lord!

A)The Day of the Lord is a major theme in scripture –mentioned 86 times in the pages of scripture.

B)But the day of the Lord is not speaking of a specific day but a time period –

1)That begins with the rapture of the church
Includes the tribulation time

C)And Runs through the Millennial or 1,000 reign of Jesus after His 2nd coming.

D)Peter says that day is going to be Sudden – like a Thief in the night

Starts with the rapture –

A)Catches the whole world off guard – not anticipating millions suddenly disappear

B)That event launches the World into a time frame – of intense tribulation and difficulty

C)Here are a few examples of passages that talk about the Day of the Lord

“I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome *day of the Lord* comes.” Joel 2:30-31

Zephaniah 1:14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and destruction, a day of darkness and gloom, day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Malachi 4:1-2

Peter says it will be sudden but it will also be certain

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, (explosion) and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

A) Peter is expanding on what he already said. And we looked at that last time we were together.

B) Look back in verse 5. He says, "For this they"--the false teachers who deny future catastrophe.

"For this they willingly forget or willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 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."

C) Last time the world was destroyed by water – this time it will be by Fire

The entire creation, the entire material universe, because of basic atomic structure, is one big potential nuclear bomb.

A) The surface temperature of the Sun is ten to twelve thousand degrees Fahrenheit.

B) The core of the sun is 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. Very, very hot.

C) It's what gives us on a nice day a nice warm feeling, even 93 million miles away.

D) We live on a planet that has at its core molten mass of rock.

1) The core of the earth is over 12,000 degrees,

E) and the only thing that separates us from that is a thin little crust of 10 miles that circumvents the globe

Notice V.5 again Peter says that right now everything is being preserved by the word of God.

A) But one day the Lord is going to say – It is time

B) This world was spoken into existence by the Word of God – God said....let there.. and there was

C) One day – God is going to speak it out of existence – He will say it is time

D) But that will not be the end of the Story

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

What promise is he talking about?

A) The promise in Isaiah 66 where the Lord says, "I will make new heavens and the new earth which will last forever," says the Lord."

C) In Revelation 21 John the apostle sees it all in a vision. – He sees a new heaven and a new earth.

"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

A) I want to give you the flow of this, the chronological flow of these events

B) By the time we reach Revelation 21 the tribulation has passed –

1) and the 1,000 year reign of Jesus has passed as well

C) And then after all of that is done, then this present earth will be destroyed

1) and a new one will be put in its place---new heavens and new earth.

D) The word "new" here in our text, as well as in Revelation 21, is a word that is not the typical word for "new."

1) The typical word in Greek for "new" would be the word neos. It means new in time, new chronologically.

The word used here is the word kainos.

A) It means new of a different sort or a different kind, new in quality, unlike anything previously known.

B) At the end of the tribulation – the world is going to be pretty beat up

C) During the 1,000 year reign of Jesus it is going to experience a rejuvenation – go back to pre-fall times

D) Lion lays down with the lamb, people will live longer –

E) Millennium will be a Fascinating time –
Prophecy updates

But at the end of all of that – the Lord is going to destroy the earth and create a new heaven and a new earth

A) Unlike anything that we have ever experienced before

B) That is actually how the message of the Bible ends – in Revelation 21

1) I think the reason the Lord doesn't give us any further insight on what is coming – **he knows – our minds would explode**

C) Too much to handle – so the Bible ends and sort of leaves us hanging

1) All we know is what is coming will be better than the Millennium

D) But with Information comes Responsibility

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be

What kind of people are we to be?

Obvious #1 Those who are not materialistic

A) We realize – it is all going to burn – can't take it with you.

B) We live with the right perspective on possessions – that Possessions are ok –

1) as long as they don't possess you.

C) Possessions are tools to bless others – we have been blessed to be a blessing

1) We live with a loose grip on the things of this world

D) Joseph Stowell in his book eternity – calls Christians we are not living in light of eternity - Earthbound believers “Earthbound believers live the most important segments of their lives only in the context of this world. Their expectations dreams hopes and plans all relate to what they can acquire and experience now.” Joseph Stowell – Eternity

So #1 We are not to be materialistic

#2 We live with an expectant hope

A) Looking V.12 His coming -

➤ Looking V.13 for the New heaven and new earth

➤ Look V.14 for those things

B)) There is a word for look that means to observe and study – not the word used here

C) The word used here means to look with a sense of Expectation – Longing

D) My kids were young – wait for me to come home from work – daddy is home –

1) come running out – time to play

E) Now my Dog waits for me – Chair by the window – races to the front door

1) Daddy is home – time to go for a walk

But that is the idea behind this word Look – an Expectation carries with it an excitement –

A) A preoccupation

In Union Grove Wisconsin there is a ministry called Shepherds College – they used to run a Home for Mentally Challenged Kids called the Shepherds Home

The Founder of the home said one of the major maintenance problems at the home is dirty windows. How do the Windows get so dirty?

He said that you can walk thru the corridors of that home almost any time of the day & see kids w/ their hands noses & faces pressed to the windows Looking to see if Christ might be coming back right then to take them home and to make them whole.

B) Remember there is more to follow – later is longer

C) When we see things going on in our world – seem crazy and the world is getting out of hand –

1) we know – just falling into place

D) Like when we see Christmas decorations in September – We know Thanksgiving almost here

1) Start getting excited

V.14 Be diligent put forth max effort – give our attention to be found by HIM in Peace.

A) That means we are not freaking out over what is going on in the world

B) Why? We know how the story ends

C) Sometimes my wife and I like to watch a TV show together at night –

D) Our tastes are different – I like Action – with some suspense – a who-did-it type of thing – 24

Whenever we are watching something like that – my wife can get so stressed out – “Oh no Rob, is he going to make it – Scary”

A) I am totally calm – why? I know he makes it

B) I know this is season 1 of the show and there are 5 seasons and he is in all five –

1) so I am not worried if he is going to MAKE IT

C) So I am not stressed – I am intrigued – How is he going to pull it off this time

1) Sit back and see how the story unfolds

Well as Christians we know how the story ends – Jesus wins

A) Jesus is coming back – He sets up a new kingdom

B) After the 1,000 year reign – new heaven and a new earth –

C) As we watch the events of the world unfold – we can do so with a sense of being intrigued – “Lord how are you going to bring this all together?”

D) #2 We live with an expectant hope

But with information comes responsibility – #3 We are to be reflections of Jesus in our World

A) Peter uses two words in our text that speak of the unique calling that we have as Christ followers – holy and godly.

B) The word Holy – Hagios in the Greek means to be set apart –

C) Set apart from something – this world because we are set apart to someone – Jesus

What does it mean to be godly?

A) It simply means to reflect the character of your Creator.

B) In essence, when God looks upon Christians and the whole body of Christ,

1) He expects to see in our lives a reflection of who he is.

C) That’s what godliness looks like while we wait. We represent God in the world

You are the Light of the world – a city set on a Hill

A) Christians’ light is like the Moon – reflection of the Sun – the Son

B) What causes the light of the moon to be diminished 1) When the world comes between the sun and the moon.

C) Our light diminishes when we allow the world – the things of this world to come between us and Jesus

D) Called to be in the world but not of it

1) Romans 12: Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold

Be diligent to be found by Him in Peace Spotless or blameless –

A) Without accusation

B) That is impossible – not perfect – you are right

C) Own your mistakes

¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles. 1 Peter 2:11-12

#4 We are to be burdened for the Lost

15 and consider that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation

A) Peter is going back to what he said in v9, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

B) We noted Peter was explaining one reason why the Lord’s coming seems to be delayed,

1) He is patiently waiting for sinners to come to repentance.

C) In both verses, the implied thought is, “Don’t get so caught up with your own problems that

you're just looking for the Lord to come back and bail you out."

D) We live with a sense of urgency in knowing the reason for the delay is that there are still lost people who need to be saved.

Look back at V.12 Looking for and hastening
A) Hurry up the Lord's coming – how

Acts 3:19 –21 ¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the **times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Peter seems to understand here that Jesus wouldn't come back until they were saved – reason why they were sent to preach

A) So in essence He was saying hurry up & repent so the times of refreshment can come – **Jesus can come back again**

B) Possible our evangelism efforts could speed up the Lord's coming

C) Also Praying: Lord your Kingdom come your will be done -

D) Might not make Him come back any quicker – but the reality of his coming will be more prevalent for you.

Like Weddings – I have done lots & lots of weddings – I have noticed this about Brides – **the day always comes too fast**

A) **Once the day is set – it becomes all consuming**

B) There is so much to get done and plan –

C) Sometimes they set the date and it is a year in advance –

1) whole year to find a dress - Everything else that goes into planning a wedding

D) And yet I have heard many a bride say- I just didn't have enough time – it came too fast

1) Never the groom – didn't come fast enough – all he had to do was get a suit – shower and shave

E) Bride – it came too fast

The same is true for us – It can't come fast enough because we Love Him so much & we want to be w/ Him so bad –

A) But as we are seeking to share with others – and grow in Christ

B) It is coming too fast – Lord we need more time – impact more lives

#5 We are to be grounded in the Scriptures

15 and consider that the long suffering 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.

Paul's writings are a part of scripture

A) We need teachers in which are some things hard to understand,

B) The ones who get off are those who are untaught and who are unstable

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1

To Combat that - ¹³ Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. - 1 Timothy 4:13

Exhortation and doctrine is teaching –

I charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5