

The Promise of His Coming

Lesson 22: 2 Peter 3

May 31, 2020

Letter outline

- 1:1-11 Introductory appeal to growth
- 1:12-2:22 The present
 - 1:12-18 **Remember** the truth of the Gospel
 - 1:19-2:22 **Because there will be** false teachers among the church
 - 1:19-2:9 Relating to God's word and the consequences
 - 1:19-21 Prophecy and its interpretation are from God
 - 2:1-3 Destruction will come to false interpreters
 - 2:4-9 God will not spare the wicked, but He will rescue the godly
 - 2:10-22 Characteristics of false teachers
- 3:1-10 The future
 - 3:1-3 **Remember** the word of the prophets and apostles
 - 3:4-10 **Because there will be** mockers in the last days
- 3:11-18 Concluding appeal to growth

Knowledge

- 1:2 grace and peace...in the k.
- 1:3 through the true k. of Him
- 1:5 in your moral excellence, k.
- 1:6 and in your k., self-control
- 1:8 in the true k. of our Lord
- 1:16 we made k. to you
- 1:20 k. this first of all
- 2:9 the Lord k. how to rescue
- 2:20 by the k. of the Lord
- 2:21 better...not to have k.
- 2:21 than having k. it, to turn
- 3:3 K. this first of all
- 3:17 k. this beforehand
- 3:18 k. of our Lord

Theme – 2 Peter 3:17-18

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Chapter outline

- 3:1-10
 - 3:1-3
 - 3:4-10
 - 3:11-18
- The future
- Remember** the word of the prophets and apostles
- Because there will be** mockers in the last days
- Concluding appeal to growth

The future 2 Peter 3:1-4

¹This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ²that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior *spoken* by your apostles.

³Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts, ⁴and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

- A main means of encouragement is a call to remember
- Switch from present concerns to future concerns
- The second coming is the focus of the mockers
- The world believes in uniformity

The future 2 Peter 3:5-9

⁵For when they maintain this, it **escapes their notice** that by the **word** of God *the heavens* existed long ago and *the earth* was formed out of **water** and by **water**,
⁶through which the world at that time was **destroyed**, being flooded with **water**.
⁷But by His **word** the present **heavens** and **earth** are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

⁸But do not let this one *fact* **escape your notice**, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹The 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.

- Counterexamples to uniformity
 - Creation
 - The Flood
- Judgment comes because of the ungodly, so we should live holy lives
- They have misunderstood the Lord's purpose in His delay

Concluding appeal to growth

2 Peter 3:10-13

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the **heavens** will pass away with a roar and the **elements** will be **destroyed** with **intense heat**, and the **earth** and its works will be burned up.

¹¹Since all these things are to be **destroyed** in this way, what sort of people 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 **destroyed** by **burning**, and the **elements** will melt with intense heat!

¹³But according to His promise we are **looking** for new **heavens** and a new **earth**, in which righteousness dwells.

- The day of the Lord will be sudden
- The day of the Lord needs to lead us to live holy lives now
- We are to long for the day of the Lord
- Although heaven and earth will be destroyed God will create a new heaven and earth

Concluding appeal to growth

2 Peter 3:14-18

¹⁴Therefore, **beloved**, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our **beloved** brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they* do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. ¹⁷You therefore, **beloved**, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- There is peace even in the day of the Lord for believers
- God's patience means salvation
- Be on you guard
 - Against error
 - From falling from steadfastness
- Grow in
 - Grace
 - Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Summary

- Mockers of the second coming follow after their own lusts
- The universe has not continued uniformly since creation
- The Lord is not slow, but patient, which is salvation
- The day of the Lord should lead us to live holy lives now
- There is nothing to fear in the day of the Lord for believers
- Be on guard against error
- Grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior