

## 2 Peter 3:1-18 **Scoffers –Day of The Lord is Coming, Elements Melt – Be Steadfast**

### Purpose for Writing

<sup>1</sup> Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), <sup>2</sup> 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,

### Scoffers of the Last Days

<sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

### Truth of the Earth's End

<sup>7</sup> 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.

### Thousand Year Day – Patience of God calls for Repentance

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

### The Day of the Lord – Elements Melt

<sup>10</sup> 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.

### Call to Godliness

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

### Be Steadfast – Expectant Watching

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> 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.

### Conclusion

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.  
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

**Purpose of Writing** [2 Peter 3:1-2]

- ✚ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your **pure minds** by way of reminder), **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.** [2 Peter 3:1-2]
- ✧ The teachings of the Apostles carry the same level of authority as do the words spoken before by the holy prophets.
- ✧ Peter expressed his purpose in both of His epistles was to stir up their minds to remember things essential to the believer through the time of the Church to the very end. [2 Peter 1:12-15, 3:1-2]
- ✧ The use of the words "pure minds" indicate that the acceptance of truth requires a mind free of preconceived ideas or evil motives and open to receive truth in innocence.
- ✧ The Truth is revealed in Holy Scriptures for those who take the time and diligently commit themselves to carefully search it out.

**Scoffers of the Last Days** [2 Peter 3:3-6, Jude 1:18]

- ✚ Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 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.**" [2 Peter 3:3-4]
- ✧ This is a very common attitude both inside and outside the Church of today.
- ✧ It is a dangerous attitude because it tends to cause complacency at a time when there is a very great need to be especially focused on watchful expectation of the day of accountability in the rapidly approaching Day of Judgment at the return of the Lord.
- ✚ 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, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. [2 Peter 3:5-6, Romans 1:18-32]
- ✧ Believing the lie of evolution, the contemporary generation has largely chosen to reject the revealed fact of God's work of Creation.
- ✧ Rejecting the truth does not alter the fact that it is true. Truth is not dependant upon our acceptance or rejection. Truth is true whether one believes it or not.
- ✧ People reject the truth for their own reasons as they attempt to exclude themselves from their responsibility toward God. However it will not excuse them on the Day of Judgment.

**Thousand Year Day – Patience of God calls for Repentance** [2 Peter 3:8-9]

- ✚ 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. [2 Peter 3:8]
- ✚ **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.** [2 Peter 3:9]
- ✧ The word all indicates that God is not pleased at the destruction of the lost, but His offer of Salvation by faith is offered to the entire sinful world, the choice is theirs.
- ✧ Acceptance of God's Offer will bring Salvation, rejection of His offer brings destruction.

### The Present Earth and Heaven will end in Fire [2 Peter 3:7, 10]

- ✚ 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.** [2 Peter 3:7]
  - ✧ The time of the destruction of the world is tied to the final Judgment of the ungodly when they will be cast into the eternal Lake of Fire. [Revelation 20:11-15]
  - ✧ The truth is; the present earth is destined to end. [Matthew 5:17-18, 24:35, Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33, Hebrews 1:10-12, 1 John 2:17, Revelation 20:11, 21:1]
- ✚ 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.** [2 Peter 3:10]
  - ✧ **All the host of heaven shall be dissolved,** And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree. [Isaiah 34:4]

### Call to Godliness [2 Peter 3:11-13]

- ✚ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** 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?** [2 Peter 3:11-12]
  - ✧ Knowing the fearful things that are coming upon the earth should be a sobering thought and result in reevaluation of one's standing before God Most High.
  - ✧ Holy conduct and Godliness is our only goal as we see the time drawing near.
- ✚ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** [2 Peter 3:13]
  - ✧ Only the **Righteous** will find their way to the **New Earth under the New Heaven.** [Revelation 21:7-8, 24-27, 22:14-15]
  - ✧ Call to Repentance is always accompanied by the assurance of the **Glorious Future that awaits the faithful Saints.**
  - ✧ Peter clearly believes the Old Testament Scriptures that tell of the **Glorious hope of the eternal New Heaven and New Earth.** This was written before John wrote the book of Revelation.
  - ✧ This is a view held by writers of both the Old Testament and New Testament. [Isaiah 25:8, 65:17-19, 66:20-22, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 3:12, 21:1-2, 5, 9-23, Hebrews 2:5, 11:8-10, 13-16, 12:22-27, 2 Peter 3:13]

### Be Steadfast – Expectantly Watching [2 Peter 3:14-16]

- ✚ Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;** [2 Peter 3:14]
  - ✧ If we desire the reward of the **righteous,** we need to put all our effort into **being righteous** in holiness as God has called us to be. [Romans 6:15-23, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 4:1, 23-24, 5:27, Colossians 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 4:7, Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15-16]
  - ✧ The Lord has waited in bringing His Wrath on the world for the purpose of allowing everyone **time to come to repentance for Salvation.** [2 Peter 3:15, Romans 2:4, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, 2 Peter 3:9]
  - ✧ Peter acknowledged that Paul wrote the same things even though some of his writings are hard to understand. [2 Peter 3:15-16]
  - ✧ Those who lack understanding are seen as unstable people who resist the message as though they were not taught the truth, and are twisting Scripture to their own destruction. [2 Peter 3:16]
  - ✧ Peter thus includes the writings of Paul to be clearly classified as Scripture. [2 Peter 3:16]

### Conclusion – Beware Lest You Fall – Grow in Grace [2 Peter 3:17-18]

- ✠ You therefore, beloved, **since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall** from your own steadfastness, **being led away with the error of the wicked.** [2 Peter 3:17]
  - ✧ There is a constant danger to the believer of being led astray by those in the Church who come in with **false doctrine** as excitedly motivating though false teachers who are viewed as Charismatic, but who are **luring the unwary to their own destruction with false doctrine.**
  - ✧ There will be false christs, false prophets and false teachers in the Church to the very end. [2 Peter 2:1, Matthew 7:15, 24:4-5, 11, 24, Mark 13:5-6, 21-22, Luke 21:8, Acts 13:6, Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Ephesians 5:6, Colossians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:13, Titus 1:10-11, 1 John 2:26, Revelation 13:11-14]
  - ✧ Many will be deceived by their destructive heresies. [2 Peter 2:2, Matthew 24:5, 11, Mark 13:6, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:13]
- ✠ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 3:18]
  - ✧ If we know the truth of Scripture we will be able to discern error when it arises.
  - ✧ By guarding against false doctrine, we will grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [2 Peter 3:18]
- ✠ To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. [2 Peter 3:18]