

2 Peter 3

2 Peter 3.1-7

V1 – How was Peter teaching them? Constantly reminding them of the truth

-Old saying: Three laws of learning: Repetition, repetition, repetition

V2 – What were they supposed to remember? Words of Old Testament prophets and commandments of Jesus spoken by the apostles

-Remember that at the time Peter wrote this, the New Testament still had not been completed

-Christians had to rely on the apostles

-Today, we all have to be constantly reminded of the truth

V 3-4 – What would mockers say? "What happened to the Second Coming?"

-**What would be their line of reason?** It has always been this way

V 5 – What had those false teachers forgotten? That there had been radical changes in the history of the universe

-Specifically, God had created the heavens and the earth (a radical change)

V 6 – What other event? The world-wide flood

-**How was this world destroyed?** Flood – note the use of the word “*world*,” not earth

V 7 – What is waiting for the present heavens and earth? Destruction

-Tremendous logic in these seven verses

-This destroys idea that the world continues on with very minor changes over a long period of time (evolution)

-But the Bible teaches that there have been violent changes in world history: the universal flood and the separation of the continents (*Gen. 10.25*), earthquakes, volcanoes, etc.

2 Peter 3.8-9

V 8 – Peter’s second answer to the skeptics? God has intentionally put off the Second Coming

-**Why?** Time doesn’t mean the same time to him as it does to us

V 9 – Why else? To give people more time to repent and be saved

-The passing of time does not affect God’s promises

-God will do what he has promised

Joshua 6.26 – Then Joshua made them take an oath at that time, saying, “Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his first-born he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set up its gates.”

1 Kings 16.34 – In his days Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho; he laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his first-born, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

-About 700 years later (during the life of Elijah the prophet)

2 Peter 3.10-13

V 10 – How will the Second Coming take place? Like a thief in the night

- What will take place?** Heavens will pass away
- The heavens = visible portions of the universe
- The elements will be destroyed with intense heat
- The earth (not just the "world") will be burned up
- Works on earth?** All that mankind has accomplished (dams, monuments, works of art/, skyscrapers)
- How will God carry out this destruction?** Peter does not say
- Several years ago this writer visited the Hoover Dam near Las Vegas, Nevada, and the tour guide was asked the question about how long this dam was designed to operate
- The tour guide said, "Forever"
- But Peter tells us that that is not the case

V 11 – Based on what is coming, how should we live our lives? With holy conduct and godliness

- How should we view our possessions (based on the coming destruction)?** Very temporary

V 12 – How should faithful Christians view the Second Coming? Should pray for its coming

- Remember the First Century prayer for the Second Coming?** Maranatha (Come, Lord Jesus)
- Can we pray that prayer today?**

V 13 – Notice: new heavens and a new earth

- This phrase must stand for our home in heaven

2 Peter 3.14-18

V 14 – Our lives ought to be righteous, considering the Second Coming

V 15 – The significance of God’s patience? Salvation (more people have the opportunity to be saved)

- Notice: “*our beloved brother Paul*” – brother is not a title, but a description

V 16 – Interesting: Peter was familiar with the writings of Paul, and his letters were already in circulation

- What comment did Peter make about the writings of Paul?** Some things were hard to understand (remember *Romans 1-8* – the book of *Revelation* is easy compared to that)
- Please notice: Peter did not say that we could not understand Paul, but that it just takes extra effort
- What did false teachers do?** Distorted Paul’s writings
- Result?** Their own destruction

V 17 – Final warning of Peter? Don’t fall from your steadfastness (refutes "Once Saved Always Saved")

V 18 – Final emphasis? Knowledge

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