

THE END IS NEAR ...



OUTLINE & NOTES ... 2 Peter 3:1-18 ...

- (2 Peter 3:1-4 ESV) This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, 3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

1. **We are ready when ... we allow the Holy Spirit to stir up in our minds the message of the holy prophets and the commandment of our Lord and Savior.**

Peter attempts to stir up two things in our minds—two big ideas he wants us to recall or to “return to our minds” (remember). First, the Second Coming of Christ, and, second, the commandment of our Lord and Savior.

The prophets predicted the Son of God coming to earth—twice. First, he came in humility to become our Savior.

- (Philippians 2:6-8 ESV) Who, though he [Christ] was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

And, second, he will come in judgment—an event known variously as his Second Coming

and as “the day of the Lord.” This event is not to be confused with the Rapture.

- (Acts 2:19-20 ESV) The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before **the day of the Lord** comes, the great and magnificent day.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 ESV) For you yourselves are fully aware that **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 ESV) **Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that **the day of the Lord** has come.

Peter also wants to stir our minds so that we remember the commandment of our Lord and Savior. Christ really gave many commands that are recorded, but his most specific references are found in the following verses, and to those we will turn our attention.

What is our Lord’s focus in these commands? That we love one another.

- (John 13:34 ESV) **A new commandment I give to you**, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- (John 15:12-14 ESV) **This is my commandment**, that you love one another

as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

- (John 15:17 ESV) **These things I command you**, so that you will love one another.

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- (2 Peter 3:5–10 ESV) **For they deliberately overlook this fact**, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water **by the word of God**, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 **But by the same word** the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 **But do not overlook this one fact**, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

2. **We are ready when ... we receive and believe the prophetic message as the word of God that brought the heavens into existence and formed the earth out of water and as the same word that reserves this world for fire.**

We must not “overlook” the facts but must be deliberate and remember the facts of creation, the flood judgment and the final judgment of God by the same word of God.

We must “not overlook” the patience and timing of the Lord concerning his promise. The day of the Lord will come, and it will come surely and swiftly—“like a thief.”

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- (2 Peter 3:11–18 ESV) Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, 16 as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in

them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 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.

3. **We are ready when ... the prophetic message stirs our minds and hearts, so that we live lives of holiness and godliness.**

- A. **Expectation:** We should be deliberately and intentionally waiting for the coming day of God, 3:11-12.

We should live with expectation and circumspection. To be circumspect means literally, looking on all sides; looking round. Hence, cautious; prudent; with a view to a correct course of conduct; watchful on all sides; examining carefully all the circumstances that may affect a determination, or a measure to be adopted.

Deliberately and intentionally waiting for the coming day of God will be a purifying hope, causing us to pursue lives of holiness and godliness, cf. 1 John 3:1-3.

- (1 John 3:1–3 ESV) See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

- B. **Anticipation:** We should be eagerly waiting for the fulfillment of God’s promise of new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, 3:13.
- C. **Diligence:** We must be dutiful and conscientious in our waiting so that we will be found by Christ without spot or blemish, and at peace, 3:14.
- D. **Trust:** We should patiently wait and trust in God by trusting his timing and not distort the Scriptures, 3:15-16.
- E. **Truth:** A proper discipline of waiting on the Lord allows the Spirit to focus our attention on what is important and true with the result that we will not be carried away with the error of the lawless but will instead grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, 3:17-18a.
- F. **Glory:** Consciously waiting and patiently trusting in the Lord, we will live in view of his glory both now and to the day of eternity, 3:18b.