

SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

Part 11

2 PETER

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As we begin the last chapter of Peter's final letter before leaving this earth... notice how Peter clearly places the "holy prophets" of the Old Testament on the same level of inspiration and authority as "the apostles" of Christ in the New Testament, emphasizing the inspiration of all Scripture.

2 Peter 3:1 KJV

3 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 Peter 3:1 AMPC

1 Beloved, I am now writing you this second letter. In [both of] them I have stirred up your unsullied (sincere) mind by way of remembrance,

"This second epistle": That is (second to 1 Peter). **"Beloved":** This attitude toward the readers of his letter reflects Peter's pastoral concern (1 Peter 5:1-4). **"Your pure minds":** A good commendation which demonstrates that Peter surely believed that his readers were genuine Christians.

Note: _____

“Sincere”: This means uncontaminated; unmixed by the seductive influences of the world, the flesh, and also the devil. How different the true believers were from the corrupt apostate false teachers (2:10-22).

Peter sought to impress on his readers the truth they already knew so that their knowledge of truth and spiritual discernment would be able to detect and refute false teaching and doctrines.

The Christian or the follower and imitator has the blessing of the mind of Christ (the Word - John 1:1).

1 Corinthians 2:16 AMPC

16 For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings things to our remembrance... He will remind us of things that are His Word that we have heard and read: sin, judgement, righteousness and things to come.

John 14:26 AMPC

*26 But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. **And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.***

John 16:13 AMPC

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].

2 Peter 3:2 KJV

2 That ye 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 Saviour:

2 Peter 3:2 AMPC

2 That you should recall the predictions of the holy (consecrated, dedicated) prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior [given] through your apostles (His special messengers).

“Holy prophets”: The Old testament prophets are in view, who were holy in contrast to the unholy false teachers. God’s Word was written by those prophets in the Scriptures.

In particular, those prophets sent by God, warned about coming judgment (Psalm 50:1-4; Isa. 13:10-13; 24:19- 23; Micah 1:4; Mal. 4:1-2).

“The commandment ... of the Lord”: Peter is referring to the warnings which he and the other apostles had written regarding judgment (Jude 17).

Jude 17-20 AMPC

17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions which were made by the apostles (the special messengers) of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

18 They told you beforehand, In the last days (in the end time) there will be scoffers [who seek to gratify their own unholy desires], following after their own ungodly passions.

19 It is these who are [agitators] setting up distinctions and causing divisions—merely sensual [creatures, carnal, worldly-minded people], devoid of the [Holy] Spirit and destitute of any higher spiritual life.

20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;

“The apostles”: The apostles of Christ filled the 260 chapters of the New Testament with about 300 references to the coming.

New Testament revelation about the Christ coming to gather His own, warnings about eschatological judgments, information about the establishment of His kingdom, and teaching concerning God’s bringing in eternal righteousness, are the irrefutable proof for the second coming of Christ and the judgment of the wicked.

We have spoken in many of the lessons during this series how the apostle is a mouthpiece for God. They are pointing to the fact that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah from the Old Testament.

They are bringing forth or forth-telling prophetically things that were spoken in the Old Testament to prove that was His first coming and today, pastor/preacher and teach is commanded to bring forth or forth tell prophetically that which was already spoken about sin, judgment, righteousness and the things to come to prepare the Church or the Bride for Jesus the Groom!

The message is not their own, but Christ's (the Word) message who sent them. These prophets were moved upon by the Holy Spirit of God and the message was placed in their mouths by the Holy Spirit of God with no fear of religion and the religious leaders not accepting them.

2 Peter 3:3 KJV

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2 Peter 3:3 AMPC

3 To begin with, you must know and understand this, that scoffers (mockers) will come in the last days with scoffing, [people who] walk after their own fleshly desires

“Knowing this first”: “First” here means the preeminent matter, not the first in a list. Peter’s priority in this section of his letter is to warn Christians about how the false teachers would try to deny this judgment and steal the hope of believers.

“In the last days”: This phrase refers to that entire period from the arrival of the Messiah to His return (Acts 2:17; Gal. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2; James 5:3; 1 Peter 1:20; 1 John 2:18-19; Jude 18). The entire age will be marked by saboteurs of the Christian truth and especially the hope of Christ’s return.

Note: Jesus said, He did not know whether it was near or far when He would come to meet us in the clouds but there would be “signs” that He commanded us to know.

“Scoffers”: False teachers argue against the second coming of Christ or any teaching of Scripture through ridicule (Isa. 5:19; Jude 18).

“Walking after their own lusts”: Peter again speaks of the lifestyle of the false teachers, which was characterized by sexual lusts (2:2, 10, 13-14, 18), pounding home his warning and a lust of money or greed for their own plan and purposes and not God’s. False teachers who know not the truth and know not God have nothing to restrain their lusts. They would be like dumb dog who will not bark, ignorant to scripture and lead many astray by not telling them the truth or twisting the truth.

They particularly mock the second coming of Jesus Christ because they want to pursue sin (impure sexual pleasure) without consequence or without having to face divine retribution. They want an eschatology that fits their conduct (1 John 2:28-29; 3:2-3).

We must be aware that the world will not receive this message of God but have itching ears to hear a word that says, “no judgement”.

These "scoffers" are those who make fun of those who believe in salvation through Jesus Christ and prove we love Him by our obedience. (John 14:15)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 AMPC

18 For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the [manifestation of] the power of God.

19 For it is written, I will baffle and render useless and destroy the learning of the learned and the philosophy of the philosophers and the cleverness of the clever and the discernment of the discerning; I will frustrate and nullify [them] and bring [them] to nothing.

20 Where is the wise man (the philosopher)? Where is the scribe (the scholar)? Where is the investigator (the logician, the debater) of this present time and age? Has not God shown up the nonsense and the folly of this world's wisdom?

21 For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive and recognize and know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him).

22 For while Jews [demandingly] ask for signs and miracles and Greeks pursue philosophy and wisdom,

23 We preach Christ (the Messiah) crucified, [preaching which] to the Jews is a scandal and an offensive stumbling block [that springs a snare or trap], and to the Gentiles it is absurd and utterly unphilosophical nonsense.

24 But to those who are called, whether Jew or Greek (Gentile), Christ [is] the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.

25 [This is] because the foolish thing [that has its source in] God is wiser than men, and the weak thing [that springs] from God is stronger than men.

These scoffers in the church (meaning those who have hardened their heart against God), will only laugh at those who believe. They are so caught up in themselves that they think only of the desires of their own flesh. They do not believe in anything they cannot see with their physical eyes - the signs that were foretold in God's Word that are taking place.

2 Peter 3:4 KJV

4 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 the creation.

2 Peter 3:4 AMPC

4 And say, Where is the promise of His coming? For since the forefathers fell asleep, all things have continued exactly as they did from the beginning of creation.

“Where is the promise of his coming”: The early church believed that Jesus was coming back imminently (1 Cor. 5:51; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 4:15-18; 5:1-2).

These scoffers have employed an emotional argument against immanency rather than any Biblical argument. Their argument played on ridicule and disappointment.

“The fathers”: The Old Testament patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Rom. 9:5; Heb. 1:1).

“All things continue as they were”: This argument against the second coming of Christ is the same as in the days of Noah. 120 years of preaching judgment, 100 years of signs taking place from the building of the ark, animals arriving and Methuselah dying... but they, the ones hearing the message were dumb on purpose or willfully ignorant and missed their way of escape.

Many pastors, preachers and teachers will say, “There will not be a great cataclysmic judgmental event at the end of history, because that is not how the universe works. There never has been such a judgment, so why should we expect one in the future? Instead, everything in the universe is stable, closed, fixed and governed by never varying patterns and principles of evolution.

Nothing catastrophic has ever happened in the past, so nothing catastrophic ever will happen in the future. There will be no divine invasion, no supernatural judgment on mankind.” This is the same type of scoffer that laughed at Noah while he was building the ark. Their whole world revolves around the physical. Just as it had never rained in the time of Noah and they did not believe.

The church, in general does not believe now, because they have never seen Jesus appear in the sky. Anything that you can see with your eyes requires no faith to believe.

John 20:29 AMPC

29 Jesus said to him, Because you have seen Me, Thomas, do you now believe (trust, have faith)? Blessed and happy and [a]to be envied are those who have never seen Me and yet have believed and adhered to and trusted and relied on Me.

2 Peter 3:5 KJV

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

2 Peter 3:5 AMPC

5 For they willfully overlook and forget this [fact], that the heavens [came into] existence long ago by the word of God, and the earth also which was formed out of water and by means of water,

The false teachers, in their quest to avoid the doctrine of judgment, deliberately ignore the two major previous divine cataclysmic events, creation and the flood.

“By the word of God”: Creation was God’s stepping into the emptiness and bringing the universe into existence, not by a big bang or evolution, but by an instantaneous, explosive 6-day creation. In six, 24 hour days the whole universe was created mature and complete.

John 1:1-3 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

2 He was present originally with God.

3 All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16 AMPC

16 For it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and things unseen, whether thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities; all things were created and exist through Him [by His service, intervention] and in and for Him.

“Earth standing out of the water and in the water”: The earth was formed between two realms of watery mass. During the early part of the creation week, God collected the upper waters into a canopy around the whole earth... ***(continued next page)***

... and the lower waters into underground reservoirs, rivers, lakes and seas. The spoken Word "Let there be" brought everything into existence from nothing. **Being willingly ignorant of something, just means they did not choose to believe.**

2 Peter 3:6 KJV

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2 Peter 3:6 AMPC

6 Through which the world that then [existed] was deluged with water and perished.

God, by creating water above and below, built into His creation the tool of its destruction.

“Whereby the world that then was”: This is a reference to the pre-flood world order. This world included the physical arrangement with the canopy above, the waters in the underground reservoirs, rivers, lakes, and seas below, and the heavens in the middle.

The pre-flood world, sheltered from the sun's destructive ultraviolet rays, and with a gentle climate without rain, storms and winds, was characterized by long life of humans (Genesis 5), and the ability of the earth (like a greenhouse), to produce extensively.

“Overflowed with water, perished”: The second great divine cataclysm; that defeats the idea of uniformitarianism, was the universal flood which drowned the whole earth and altered that originally created world order.

According to (Genesis 7:11), the flood occurred from two directions: first, the bursting open of the sources of water below as the earth cracked open and gas, dust, water and air burst up.

Then came the breakup of the canopy when hit by all that upward flow, which sent the water from above crashing down on the earth. The deluge was so cataclysmic that the inhabitants of the earth were all destroyed, except 8 people and a representation of every kind of animal (Gen 7:11-24).

Clearly, by those two great events, it is certain that the world is not in a uniformitarian process. We have discussed in this series of lessons that God was grieved that He had even made man, because man was so wicked.

But, Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord, and was saved along with his family in the flood. The "world", in the verse above, is not speaking of the physical world, but the people that were in the world. The flood destroyed all but 8 people and those 8 people repopulated the world.

Note: _____

2 Peter 3:7 KJV

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:7 AMPC

7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been stored up (reserved) for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly people.

“By the same word”: The same Word of God that predicted the Flood and fulfilled it also has predicted the future destruction of this world in the Day of Judgment and the destruction of the ungodly.

The second world system is reserved for future judgment, which will come by the Word of God just as creation and the flood came. God will speak it into existence as well, after the present order is again destroyed.

“Are kept in store”: Humanity, since the flood, lives in the second world order. One of the obvious differences between the two world orders is that people live 70 years in the present world not 900 years, which was a common age of pre-flood human beings. And Peter was making the point that there is a third form of the heavens and earth yet to come following another cataclysm.

“Reserved unto fire”: God put the rainbow in the sky to signify that He would never destroy the world again by water (Genesis 9:13). In the future, God will destroy the heavens and the earth by fire (Isa. 66:15; Dan. 7:9-10; Micah 1:4; Mal. 4:1; Matt. 3:11-12; 2 Thess. 1:7-8).

“Against the day of judgment ... of ungodly men”: The earth waits for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. The godly will not be present on earth when God speaks into existence the judgment by fire (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).

All things are subject to the Word of God. It is the Word of God that keeps the planets in perfect order and with one word, He can and will destroy it all. After the reign of Jesus on the earth, the earth we know will be destroyed by fire. There will be a new heaven and a new earth.

2 Peter 3:8 KJV

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2 Peter 3:8 AMPC

8 Nevertheless, do not let this one fact escape you, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.

“One day is with the Lord as a thousand years”: God understands time much differently from man. From man’s viewpoint, Christ’s coming seems like a long time away.

Psalm 90:4 AMPC

4 For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

From God’s viewpoint, it will not be long, God is present everywhere, and is not limited by time and space. He is not bound by the normal flow of time, as humans experience it.

A thousand years is but a brief span to One who inhabits eternity; conversely, a day with the One who knows all things at all times, might seem like a thousand years to finite mankind. There is no separation of time in heaven where God dwells, the only place where time is measured is on this earth.

God set the measure of time for the earth, Himself. He established the 24 hours we call a day, the 7 day week and so on.

Genesis 1:14 AMPC

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God’s provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years,

This scheduled time is for the use of man on the earth. When we are transported into heaven where God dwells, there is only eternity.

2 Peter 3:9 KJV

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 AMPC

9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.

Note: _____



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