

We finished part 3 with Daniel finding out what the King wanted.... What he dreamt and then the interpretation. If you can't tell him those two things, you will die.

Daniel 2:18 KJV

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:18 AMPC

18 So that they would desire and request mercy of the God of heaven concerning this secret, that Daniel and his companions should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:19 KJV

19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:19 AMPC

19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night, and Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

God's Word tells us that He, Our Heavenly Father hears the prayers of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29 AMPC

29 The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the [consistently] righteous (the upright, in right standing with Him).

Psalms 34:15 AMPC

15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the [uncompromisingly] righteous and His ears are open to their cry.

Philippians 4:6-7 AMPC

6 Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.

7 And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Ecclesiastes 8:4-6 KJV

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:

Before we continue studying line by line in chapter 2 of the “Never Wrong” Prophet Daniel (Empires, Kingdoms or Beasts “to come” will be disclosed), it is important that we have some background regarding apocalyptic literature. This will include the predictions, prophecies, dreams and visions that deal with the “Time of the End”.

Daniel 12:4 KJV

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Daniel 12:4 AMPC

*4 But you, O Daniel, **shut up the words and seal the Book until the time of the end. [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.***

I believe with all my heart that we are in the first time in history since the book of Daniel was written that these prophecies can now be understood. As we continue with this study you will see that we are the generation that has the knowledge of the book of Daniel where we can unseal and unlock many of the cryptic references and symbolism that Daniel saw and wrote down over 2600 hundred years ago.

The book of Daniel is an apocalyptic book. There are 2 major apocalyptic books in the Bible, one of course is Daniel and the other is the book of Revelation. They are written almost 700 years apart.

Revelation 1:1 KJV

1 The Revelation (the apocalypse the revealing) of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1 AMPC

1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass in their entirety. And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,

Apocalyptic or apocalyptic books, are “revealing” or means “to be revealed”. There are several apocalyptic books in the Bible and these books often use strange symbolism like animals and other things that once we understand why and how they are used, help reveal other passages in God’s Word. These symbols represent something literal and the specific animal emblems in the prophecies of Daniel represent the empires of Bible prophecy.

The book of Daniel and the book of Revelation work together and the book of Revelation is a continuation of the book of Daniel giving more details regarding the 7th and 8th empires, kingdoms or beasts of Bible Prophecy.

Daniel was called a prophet by Jesus and by definition a prophet (one who foretells the future) is never wrong.

Matthew 24:15 KJV

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Matthew 24:15 AMPC

*15 So when you see the appalling sacrilege [the abomination that astonishes and makes desolate], spoken of **by the prophet Daniel**, standing in the Holy Place—let the reader take notice and ponder and consider and heed [this]—*

The “Never Wrong” Prophet Daniel saw visions of the “Time of the End” and the vision of the return of Jesus the Messiah.

Daniel 2:34 KJV

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Daniel 2:34 AMPC

34 As you looked, a [Stone was cut out without human hands, which smote the image on its feet of iron and [baked] clay [of the potter] and broke them to pieces.

The eternal kingdom of God, the Messianic kingdom, will extend over “the whole earth,” and all who reject Jesus, the Messiah, the Stone, will be crushed. Daniel saw it in a form of a stone cut out without hands, a corner stone, the stone that the builders rejected. This was not an empire, kingdom or beast of this world ruled by man but by God the father and Jesus himself. What is interesting is that Daniel is told to seal his book until the “Time of the End” when knowledge and understanding of what was spoken of by the Prophets would be increased.

Daniel 12:4 KJV

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Daniel 12:4 AMPC

4 But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the Book until the time of the end. [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.

Then, almost 700 years later John is told in the book of Revelation, don't seal your book.

Revelation 22:10 KJV

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 22:10 AMPC

10 And he [further] told me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book and make no secret of them, for the time when things are brought to a crisis and the period of their fulfillment is near.

The reason that John is told not to seal the book (and Daniel was) is the book of Daniel is incomplete without the book of Revelation. There are “things” in the book of Revelation that help further explain or reveal the visions of Daniel, and those visions of Daniel compliment the book or Revelation.

By the time that John received his full revelation of the apocalypse of the last days, it mixes and matches so perfect with the book of Daniel that these 2 books are inseparable. As we continue in our study we are going to work with these 2 books together (and other books of the Bible) to get a complete picture of the “Time Of The End”.

There are 5 chapters in the book of Daniel that are significant when you want to understand the “Time of the End”. Studying these chapters you can see how prophecy comes to a climax at the “End of Days” and what will happen at that specific time in history.

1. Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream Of The Metallic Image

Daniel Chapter 2

2. The Dream of the Tree Stump w/the Brass & Iron Band

Daniel Chapter 4 - This is a prophetic dream

3. The Vision of the Four Great Beasts Rising from the Sea

Daniel Chapter 7 - The great sea is the Mediterranean sea

4. The Vision of the Ram and the He Goat

Daniel Chapter 8

5. The Interpretation of the Seventy Weeks Prophecy

Daniel Chapter 9

These five chapters, (2, 4, 7, 8 and 9) specifically contain and conceal symbolic cyphers and words that must be unlocked or unsealed. The reason this must be done at the “Time of the End” is for people to understand what the Prophet Daniel was talking about.

There are images of “Beasts” that Daniel saw in his vision in the book of Daniel along with another images that we will talk about later in the book of Revelation, combines the Beasts together to give us a clue about the antichrist and his kingdom... and where he will come from.

Why do apocalyptic books and these writers, the prophets in the Bible use symbolism? Why would God have them write about: a goat with 4 horns coming out of his head? A ram with 2 horns and one is bigger than the other? a beast with a body like a leopard, feet like a bear, mouth like a lion? Why the symbolism, why can't God just say here's the empire and here's the nations?

1. God used symbols that people of that day were familiar with.

We use symbolism as well today. When we use the seal of or an image of an eagle we think of the United States.



When we see a bear, we think of Russia...



When you think of a lion you think of Britain, England...



God used symbolism in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation that the people were familiar with in that day.

2. The nature of the animals matched the nature of the king or kingdom it represented.

For instance, if you have a leopard it represents Alexander the Great's kingdom in Greece. A leopard is extremely fast and Alexander conquered the known world starting from the time he was in his early twenties till the time he was 32. He was very quick in his conquering. So, once again, God uses the nature of the animals by matching them with the nature of the king or kingdom it represented.

3. God wants you to search out scripture for the interpretation.

God wants you and I to search out the truth. He wants us to search out the mystery of it because it is the order of a king to search out secrets. The reason God uses symbolism is if you know the scripture, the symbol will interpret itself.

As an example, if I say serpent, what does it represent? When you study the Bible you know that the serpent represents Satan. So, a symbol is known by the Bible itself. The Bible itself will interpret a symbol.

4. Symbolism can hide the meaning to protect the writer and symbolism itself.

Let me give you an example. Why did John conceal the idea that mystery Babylon was a part of Rome in Revelation Chapter 17 and 18?

Revelation 17:10-11, 18 KJV

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:10-11, 18 AMPC

10 And they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one still exists [and is reigning]; the other [the seventh] has not yet appeared, and when he does arrive, he must stay [but] a brief time.

11 And as for the beast that [once] was, but now is no more, he [himself] is an eighth ruler (king, head), but he is of the seven and belongs to them, and he goes to perdition.

18 And the woman that you saw is herself the great city which dominates and controls the rulers and the leaders of the earth.

The city ruling over the great kings of the earth or mystery Babylon - they all know it was in the existing Rome at that time.

Note: The government of Mystery Babylon will be in the Iraq/Syria/Lebanon area and the religion of Mystery Babylon will be set in the area of the Roman Empire as well or the Roman Catholic Church which will all be part of the the 7th empire.

So, why did John conceal this idea or prophecy by calling it mystery Babylon? Among the Jews, they would veil this part of Rome or the name of Rome by using the name Babylon.

The reason why they would do this is because the babylonians and the romans both destroyed Jerusalem and they both destroyed the temple. In addition, they both took the treasures, they both took the jewish people captive, and both temples by Babylon and in Rome were destroyed on the 9th of Av on the jewish calendar.

The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. and John wrote the book of Revelation about 25 years later. So, when talking about Rome, John could never predict that **“Rome”** would be destroyed in print. The reason why is the book or scroll which is Revelation would never of been allowed to be taken off of the Isle of Patmos after the Emperor Domitian died and John was released. Revelation would be considered a political scroll which was antagonistic towards Rome and they would have burned it and destroyed it.



The Emperor Domitian banished John the Revelator to the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:9-10), A.D. 95. He was Roman emperor from 81 AD to 96 AD. Domitian was the third and last emperor of the Flavian dynasty. Domitian's youth and early career were largely spent in the shadow of his brother Titus, who gained military renown during the First Jewish–Roman War.

The point is, God had to veil the truth of what was going to happen in the future in symbolism so it could be searched out by prophets, wise men and the Bible scholars of today to know exactly what it meant. There is a reason that God used symbolism because the ancient empires in Daniels day were very much aware of symbols.

Daniel primarily deals with five empires. Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, Rome and Mystery Babylon. Four of them he sees through symbolism very clearly but one of them, which is the 5th empire, is the empire that see the false prophet and antichrist joining together which carries over to the the 6th empire he sees. (this is actually the 8th Empire of the Bible). Which is the Little Horn that rises up amongst the 10 kings at the end of days.



EMPIRES THROUGHOUT WORLD HISTORY
(BEASTS OR KINGDOMS)

1	EGYPTIAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
2	ASSYRIAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
3 1	BABYLONIAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
4 2	MEDO/PERSIAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
5 3	GRECIAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
6 4	ROMAN EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
7	MYSTERY BABYLON EMPIRE (KINGDOM OR BEAST)
8	ANTI-CHRIST/FALSE PROPHET EMPIRE (KD. OR BEAST)
STONE KINGDOM - THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED	

42 months

Not only did Daniel see the empires of: Babylon, Media Persia, Greece and Rome, but he saw the very End of Days. He saw the tribulation empires (the 7th and 8th Beasts, Kingdoms) coming to power which was that Little Horn with a mouth speaking great things (the antichrist) having ten kings underneath him to begin the 8th empire. This Empire is the last 42 months of the 7 year Tribulation (which begins after the 7 year peace treaty is signed Dan. 9) due to the war of Gog & Magog (Ezk. 38 & 39).

What is the Time of the End? The prophetic time frame Daniel covers started 2,600 years ago from where we are today. Beginning with Babylon and going to the “End Of Days” or “Time Of The End”. Daniel writes five times that he is talking about the “Time Of The End”. The phrase, “Time Of The End” is a Hebrew phrase meaning the time prior to the messiah returning to earth.

Daniel 8:17 AMPC

*17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, Understand, O son of man, for the [fulfillment of the] vision belongs to [events that shall occur in] the **time of the end.***

Daniel 11:35 AMPC

*35 And some of those who are wise, prudent, and understanding shall be weakened and fall, [thus, then, the insincere among the people will lose courage and become deserters. It will be a test] to refine, to purify, and to make those among [God's people] white, even to the **time of the end,** because it is yet for the time [God] appointed.*

Daniel 11:40 AMPC

40 And at the **time of the end** the king of the South shall push at and attack him, and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and pass through.

Daniel 12:4 AMPC

4 But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the Book until the **time of the end**. [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.

Daniel 12:9 AMPC

9 And he [the angel] said, Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed till the **time of the end**.

The book of Daniel has numerous events predicted that are parallel to the book of Revelation. I will continue to emphasize this throughout this series because it is very important to remember this as it will give us a better understanding of the book of Daniel.

When you look at Daniel Chapters 1-4, especially the prophetic parts, you find a foreshadowing of the Revelation that is to come. In chapter 2, there is the ten toes. Chapter 3 contains the image that he has built and you die if you don't worship it. Then in chapter 4, the seven year breakdown.

Concealed in the story of Daniel, is the actual revelation found in the New Testament (Revelation Chapter 13). This is about the antichrist, the ten kings, killing those who will not worship the image of the beast, and later a seven year Tribulation.

Matthew 24:3 AMPC

*3 While He was seated on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately and said, Tell us, when will this take place, and what will be **the sign of Your coming and of the end (the completion, the consummation) of the age?***

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

*5 For **many** will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead **many** astray.*

Jesus said that one of the signs of His return will be: Many pastors, preachers and teachers will deceive or lead many astray or into error about: sin, judgment, righteousness and the things that were already foretold that will come to pass. The Word says that many will fall away - not my words but Jesus Words. You can't fall away unless you were following at some point.

2 Timothy 4:1-5 AMPC

*1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to **judge the living and the dead**, and by (in the light of) **His coming and His kingdom:***

*2 Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be **favorable or unfavorable.***

[Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

3 For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold.

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMPC

1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous **[betrayers]**, rash, [and] **inflated with self-conceit**. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and **rather than lovers of God**.

5 For **[although] they hold a form of piety (true religion)**, **they deny and reject** and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. **Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]**.

1 Corinthians 5:11 AMPC

11 But now I write to you **not to associate with anyone who bears the name of [Christian] brother if he is known to be guilty of immorality or greed, or is an idolater [whose soul is devoted to any object that usurps the place of God], or is a person with a foul tongue [railing, abusing, reviling, slandering], or is a drunkard or a swindler or a robber. [No] you must not so much as eat with such a person.**

Jude 1-11 AMPC

1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and brother of James, [writes this letter] to those who are called (chosen), dearly loved by God the Father and **separated (set apart) and kept for Jesus Christ:**

2 May mercy, [soul] peace, and love be multiplied to you.

3 **Beloved**, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to **contend for the faith** which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].

4 For **certain men** have crept in stealthily [gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) **persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality,** and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

5 Now **I want to remind you,** though you were fully informed once for all, that though **the Lord [at one time] delivered a people out of the land of Egypt,**

He subsequently destroyed those [of them] who did not believe [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely upon Him].

6 And **angels** who did not keep (care for, guard, and hold to) their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place—these **He has reserved in custody in eternal chains (bonds) under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgment and doom of the great day.**

7 [The wicked are sentenced to suffer] just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns—which likewise **gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity—are laid out [in plain sight] as an exhibit of perpetual punishment [to warn] of everlasting fire.**

8 Nevertheless in like manner, **these dreamers also corrupt the body,** scorn and reject authority and government, and revile and libel and scoff at [heavenly] glories (the glorious ones).

9 But when [even] the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, judicially argued (disputed) about the body of Moses, he dared not [presume to] bring an abusive condemnation against him, but [simply] said, The Lord rebuke you!

10 But **these men revile (scoff and sneer at) anything they do not happen to be acquainted with and do not understand; and whatever they do understand physically [that which they know by mere instinct], like irrational beasts—by these they corrupt themselves and are destroyed (perish).**

11 Woe to them! For they have run riotously in the way of Cain, **and have abandoned themselves for the sake of gain** [it offers them, following] the error of Balaam, and have perished in rebellion [like that] of Korah!

Isaiah 56:10-12 AMPC

10 [Israel's] **watchmen are blind,** they are all **without knowledge;** they are all **dumb dogs,** they **cannot bark; dreaming,** lying down, they love to slumber.

11 Yes, **the dogs are greedy;** they never have enough. And **such are the shepherds who cannot understand;** **they have all turned to their own way,** each one to his own gain, from every quarter [one and all].

12 Come, say they, **We will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink! And tomorrow shall be as this day, a day great beyond measure.**

Let's continue with Jesus Words as He responds to His 12 disciples in Matthew 24 about His coming and of the end (the completion, the consummation) of the age.

Matthew 24:33 AMPC

33 So also **when you see these signs, all taken together, coming to pass,** you may know of a surety that He is near, at the very doors.

Matthew 24:37-44 AMPC

37 As were the days of Noah, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

38 For just as in those days **before the flood** they were eating and drinking, [men] marrying and [women] being given in marriage, until the [very] day when Noah went into the ark,

39 And **they did not know or understand** until the flood came and swept them all away—**so will be the coming of the Son of Man.**

40 **At that time** two men will be in the field; **one will be taken and one will be left.**

41 Two women will be grinding at the hand mill; **one will be taken and one will be left.**

42 **Watch therefore** [give strict attention, be cautious and active], for you do not know in what kind of a day **[whether a near or remote one] your Lord is coming.**

43 But understand this: **had the householder known in what [part of the night, whether in a night or a morning]** watch the thief was coming, **he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be undermined and broken into.**

44 You also must be ready therefore, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him.

46 **Blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied)** is that servant whom, **when his master comes, he will find so doing.**

Luke 21:28-36 AMPC

28 Now **when these things begin to occur**, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near.

29 And He told them a parable: **Look at the fig tree and all the trees;**

30 When they put forth their buds and come out in leaf, **you see for yourselves and perceive and know that summer is already near.**

31 Even so, **when you see these things taking place, understand and know that the kingdom of God is at hand.**

32 Truly I tell you, this generation (**those living at that definite period of time**) will not perish and pass away until all has taken place.

33 The sky and the earth (the universe, the world) will pass away, **but My words will not pass away.**

34 But take heed to yourselves and **be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed** (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and **worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life**, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;

35 **For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth.**

36 **Keep awake then and watch at all times** [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and **be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place**, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 AMPC

13 Now also **we would not have you ignorant, brethren,** about those who fall asleep [in death], that you may not grieve [for them] as the rest do who have no hope [beyond the grave].

14 **For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,** even so **God will also bring with Him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep [in death].**

15 For **this we declare to you by the Lord's [own] word,** that we who are alive and remain until **the coming of the Lord** shall in no way precede [into His presence] or have any advantage at all over those who have previously fallen asleep [in Him in death].

16 For the **Lord Himself will descend from heaven** with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ **will rise first.**

17 Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], **shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air;** and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord!

18 Therefore **comfort and encourage one another** with these words.

Note: _____

2 Peter 3 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,

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).

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**

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.

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,

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

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.

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.

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.**

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.

11 Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved, **what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities,**

12 **While you wait and earnestly long for (expect and hasten) the coming of the day of God by reason of which the flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the [material] elements [of the universe] will flare and melt with fire?**

13 But **we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise,** in which righteousness (uprightness, freedom from sin, and right standing with God) is to abide.

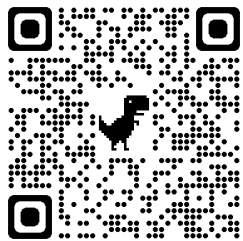
14 So, **beloved, since you are expecting these things, be eager to be found by Him [at His coming] without spot or blemish and at peace [in serene confidence, free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts].**

15 And consider that the long-suffering of our Lord [His slowness in avenging wrongs and judging the world] is salvation (that which is conducive to the soul's safety), **even as our beloved brother Paul also wrote** to you according to the spiritual insight given him,

16 Speaking of this as he does in all of his letters. There are some things in those [epistles of Paul] that are difficult to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist and misconstrue to their own utter destruction, just as [they distort and misinterpret] the rest of the Scriptures.

17 Let me warn you therefore, beloved, that knowing these things beforehand, you should be on your guard, lest you be carried away by the error of lawless and wicked [persons and] fall from your own [present] firm condition [your own steadfastness of mind].

18 But grow in grace (undeserved favor, spiritual strength) and recognition and knowledge and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (the Messiah). To Him [be] glory (honor, majesty, and splendor) both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (so be it)!



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