

The world can scoff and they can mock, but when He comes, the bottom line is this: Will you be taken in the rapture, or will you be found lost, judged and sentenced to Hell?

God has already made His decision. He loves you and has made a way for you to be saved. Now, you need to make your decision. What will you do with Jesus?

Will Jesus Really Come Again?

2Peter 3: 1-9

2Pe 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in *both* which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2Pe 3:2 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:

2Pe 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

2Pe 3:4 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.

2Pe 3:5 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:

2Pe 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2Pe 3:7 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.

2Pe 3:8 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.

2Pe 3:9 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.

In 1942, General Douglas MacArther was forced to leave the Philippines before the Japanese conquered the islands. As he

left, he gave the Filipino people this promise; “I will return!” Though many doubted whether or not MacArthur would be able to keep his promise, in the fall of 1944 he did return. He returned in power and defeated the Japanese army, retaking the Philippines just as he said he would. Many had doubted the great General, but he was true to his word.

2,000 years ago, a man named Jesus Christ walked upon this earth. He was different from any man who ever lived before, or has lived since. He was different because He was God in the flesh. He came to this world to live a perfect life and to die a perfect death to make a sinful people perfect and to give them eternal life. After He died and rose again, He returned to His Father. Before He left, however, He made this great promise; “I will come again!” Look at it with me in:

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Many doubted the truth of His promise then and many doubt it today. Perhaps there are some under the sound of my voice that do not believe that He will really come again. If there is a doubt in your mind as to His return, then this is the message for you.

Peter had to deal with a doubting crowd. In these verses, he handles their objections and provides genuine hope for all those that believe Jesus will really come again.

Today, I want to ask, and answer this question; “Will Jesus Really Come Again?” As I do, I want you to ask, and answer this question for yourself; “Am I ready for that event?”

I. His Coming Is Doubted

2Pe 3:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in

He waited 120 years then, but today is your day.

2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

By quoting and applying Isa 49:8, Paul wanted to give the Corinthians a sense of urgency. God has an **acceptable time** for us to work with His grace. God has a **day of salvation** that will not last forever.

If there has never been a time when you understood the Gospel and placed your trust in Christ, there needs to be a sense of urgency on your part. Don't be like the people in Noah's day and put it off until it was too late. Let us help you with this.

There should also be an urgency for every child of God in this room. You need to be sharing with anyone and everyone you come into contact with. People loved you enough to share with you. Now, it is your turn to pay it forward. Too much is at stake not to share. Who cares if people think your nuts, I promise they will thank you on the back side that you loved them enough to tell them about Jesus.

So, will Jesus really come again?

It is a fact! Christ is coming! In the twinkle of an eye, He is returning for a people who are ready to meet Him. He delays His return today because He loves you and doesn't want you to die lost. He tarries to give you every opportunity to quit trusting in yourself and to turn to Him. This is an offer based totally in His love. Are you ready you receive it?

Joh 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

2. He draws men to Himself

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. He tarries His coming and delays His judgment

2Pe 3:9 ...but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The final decision, however, lays on your shoulders. “Come” To make room for. To come to Christ, you must be willing to make room for Jesus by through an examination of the evidence, and understanding the Gospel, changing your mind about how you are going to get to heaven, and then trust Him to do as He promised. God had gone as far as He will, He has provided all we need for this life and the next. Now, He waits for you to come to Him!

God's delay is to give you the opportunity to repent. Now I understand that a person dead in trespasses and sins cannot repent, but he can decide whether He will take God at His Word, or stand before Him on his own merit.

Will you do it? He will not wait forever.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
2Pe 3:4 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.

In these verses, Peter sheds some light on the nature of the doubters.

A. Their Character

Notice that they are called Scoffers. This word means “To mock, to ridicule, to make fun of.” These people delight in making fun of the Word of God. Every pronouncement of God is just fuel for another joke.

B. Their Conduct

Verse 3 says that these people are walking after their own lusts. These people made light of God's coming judgment, because to acknowledge the truth of it would mean that they would have to change their lifestyles.

It has always played out this exact way.

- People in Noah's day.

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Mat 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

Mat 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For the people of Noah's day it was business as usual. For at least 120 years Noah, a preacher of righteousness, told people that a day of reckoning was coming. He was most likely the object of ridicule for this entire time. He was a complete joke in the eyes of the world until the flood came. But if you go back and read, grace was available to the very end. It wasn't Noah that shut the door to the ark, the Bible tells us that it was the Lord that shut the door. My point is, that for the people of Noah's day, things didn't get real until it was too late to do anything about it.

- People of Sodom.

Gen 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

Lot went out and told his family about what was about to happen. But notice that the Bible says that he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. They thought he was crazy as a loon. He tried to warn them but they laughed in his face.

- People In The Last Days

2Ti 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

The point here is this. God has a purpose in everything He does, even in what men call a delay. Look back to verse 9 and I want you to see that there is:

C. A Reason to Consider

Our text tells us that God is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Why does God delay His return? He tarries to give lost men an opportunity to make things right with Him. God doesn't want anyone to go to Hell.

Mat 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

This verse is scary to a lot of people. But when you really consider it in light of verse 9 in our text, you begin to scratch the surface of just how merciful God is. Notice that this verse tells us that Hell, or everlasting fire wasn't prepared for mankind. It was prepared for the devil and his angels. God is longsuffering toward us because He doesn't want any of us to go there. He puts up with us so that anyone that is willing might be saved.

This very reason is why:

1. He sent Jesus to die

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

accounting, Jesus has been gone roughly 2 days. The world is only 6 days old. We must never time God by our watch. He is rarely early, but He is never late!

There is also:

B. A Reminder to Consider

Look at verse 9. It tells us that God isn't slack concerning His promises. God is not dragging His feet. Men are called slackers when they don't operate on another man's schedule. However, God answers to no one!

God is a God of order. If you don't believe me, just look at the universe. It is a model of precision and speaks of a precise, orderly God. If you have any doubt concerning this consider these facts.

- Our earth is traveling around its own axis at 1000 m.p.h.
- It moves around the sun at 67,000 m.p.h.
- It is carried by the sun across our galaxy at a speed of 64,000 m.p.h.
- It moves in orbit around our galaxy at 481,000 m.p.h.
- It travels through space at 1,350,000 m.p.h.
- Every twenty-four hours we cover 57,360,000 miles.
- Each year we travel 20,936,400,000 miles across empty space.
- And every movement in the billions of galaxies in the universe occurs with precise, split-second timing.

Think for a moment about the vast size of our universe. It is so big that it takes a beam of light, (which travels some 700 million miles per hour, or 186,411 miles per second!), over 100,000 years just to cover the length of our galaxy, the Milky Way. And, our galaxy is only one among many billions in the known universe.

2Ti 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

In all of these cases men love their sin too much to turn their lives over to the Lord. And, it truly is the same old song and dance today. A lot of people can see that things just aren't right, and they feel like something big is fixing to happen. But when the conversation turns to salvation, they tell you that they just have too much going on in their lives right now, but one of these days they will get around to it. Let's look back at verse 4 of our text, and I would like you to see:

C. Their Complaint

2Pe 3:4 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.

These people look back over the few years of their memories and conclude that He hasn't returned, therefore there is no reason to believe He will. Preachers from Paul on down have preached the nearness of His return. He hasn't yet, but does that mean we are all wrong? Society would answer "Yes!" but the Bible says something far different. You see,

II. His Coming Is Determined

2Pe 3:5 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:

2Pe 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

2Pe 3:7 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.

Peter reminds us that the critics are "willingly ignorant." In other words, they refuse to process some very important data. They have a very limited vision and fail to remember that God, not them, is in control of the universe. Since He is in control, He can break into time anytime He chooses and can do as He pleases!

The critic also forgets that God is bound by His Word, and that He will always do exactly what He says.

Psa 119:89 ... For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Mat 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

The return of Christ hangs totally on the Word of God. It is the only witness we have! It is the only one we need!

Peter gives us three instances when God has, and will, stepped into time and changed the world. Note all three of these events are products of His Word.

1. The Formation Of The World

meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1Th 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

4. John wrote in Revelation

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The mockers, scoffers and other fools can have their laugh, but God will keep His promise. Jesus is coming! Peter's whole point is this: Man willfully ignores the truth so that he can continue to live in sin and mockery of Almighty God.

The third point I would like you to see is this:

III. His Coming Is Delayed

2Pe 3:8 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.

2Pe 3:9 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.

In light of this there is:

A. A Reality to Consider

Look at verse 8. It tells us that one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. God doesn't view time as man does. God is totally unaffected by time. By His

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

2. Listen to what the Angels said on the day the Lord ascended.

Act 1:10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

3. Listen to what Paul said in his first letter to the Thessalonian church.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to

2Pe 3:5 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:

If you look back to Genesis Chapter 1 you will see that all of creation was by the Word of God. In fact you can count the phrase, "And God said..." 9 times.

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (*ex-nihilo*)

Look at verse 6 of our text and notice:

2. The Flood In Noah's day

2Pe 3:6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Gen 7:17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

Gen 7:21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

Gen 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

Notice again that God said it, and it was. The scoffers in Noah's day said it would never happen. Truthfully they didn't know what rain was, and building a big ol' boat just seemed a bit ridiculous. In spite of this, the flood came, just as God said it would. The Lord had spoken.

3. The Fire That Is To Come.

2Pe 3:7 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.

There is a day coming when by His Word God will destroy the world.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The scoffers laugh, but it will happen! God already has the combustible materials in place.

Oxygen - Oxygen is required for all combustion. It is what fire feeds on. Take away the oxygen and the fire dies, turn it on and the fire flares. Yet, with every breath, we pull this highly explosive material into our bodies.

Nitrogen - Nitrogen is the component that makes dynamite, TNT and nitroglycerin explosive. Yet, every day we gulp massive quantities of nitrogen in the air we breath. Cannot the same God who made these elements and combined them in such a way that they do not explode, also change the mixture and cause them to explode? Of course He can!

Table Salt - It is 1/3 Sodium. Sodium by itself is a gray, putty like substance. It must be kept in kerosene or it will explode. If a drop is placed in water, it will result in a violent fire. Yet, we eat it every day!

Water - It is composed of Oxygen and Hydrogen. Both extremely explosive, yet combined in a manner that makes them safe. All God has to do is speak the Word and the chemical arrangement is altered and the world a huge fuel dump. Yet, we drink this life giving substance every day.

The Atom - When the atom is split, a change reaction is set in motion that has he power to level cities and vaporize men. Yet, we are all made up of atoms.

The Earth - The earth has been compared to a globular egg with a hard crust covering a semi-liquid center. In scale, the earth's crust is the same thickness of a egg's shell when compared to the vast sea of lava under it. There have been times when this lava has burst forth and killed thousands. Yet, we walk on this thin crust every day and trust in the safety of the earth.

God has everything in place to carry out His word as He has said.

The Return of Christ Is a Determined Event. We Have God's Word On It:

1. Listen to what Jesus Himself had to say.